MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 NOVEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

Cease-Fire Agreement, Reaction — The Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, issued an official statement in Damascus on 25 November announcing that representatives of the parties to the Palestinian conflict had agreed to a "firm and permanent ceasefire" in northern Lebanon. The statement, which was carried by Damascus radio and SPA, said it was also agreed that Palestinian problems should be solved through dialogue and peaceful means and that all armed Palestinians should leave Tripoli and its environs under the supervision of Tripoli's Higher Coordination Committee, headed by former Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat subsequently voiced acceptance of the Saudi-Syrian agreement but noted that it requires "speedy discussion of all details," according to Radio Monte Carlo. Both the "Fatah uprising movement" and As-Sa'iqah announced adherence to the Damascus agreement in statements broadcast by Turbul Voice of Palestinian Revolution radio. However, the As-Sa'iqah statement rejected 'Arafat's "suspect interpretation" of it, saying that Palestinian fighters leaving Tripoli should go to the "frontline" with Israel rather than accompany 'Arafat, who should leave "with only his aides," and indicating that the Palestinian forces opposed to 'Arafat intend to remain in northern Lebanon since "no one can force them to leave the Palestinian camps." Sa'id Musa Muragha, one of the Fatah dissident leaders, likewise claimed that the agreement does not apply to the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps, according to Radio Monte Carlo. In Damascus, the Fatah dissidents confirmed their acceptance of the agreement but noted that they had not demanded the departure of Palestinian fighters from Tripoli, Damascus television reported. The Kuwaiti paper *AL-ANBA'* indicated that the dissident leaders were unenthusiastic about the agreement and announced their acceptance in response to Syrian pressure, KUNA reported.

Tripoli Military Situation — Tripoli was relatively calm over the weekend despite intermittent clashes as both sides reinforced their positions, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. An Algerian ship unloaded arms for 'Arafat as well as a number of Palestinians released by Israel in the recent POW exchange, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Relations with USSR — Unnamed members of PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi's delegation to Moscow told KUNA that their talks with Soviet officials were "extremely fruitful" and more successful than expected.

Lebanon

Political Developments — President Amin al-Jumayyil departed Beirut for Rome on 27 November, after which he is to go to the United States, Beirut radio reported. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan stated that Lebanon "does not demand a solution to the 17 May agreement" between Israel and Lebanon, but rather the "liberation of its territory and the elimination of Israeli occupation." In comments reported by Beirut radio, Al-Wazzan maintained that when it was discovered that the 17 May agreement would not end the occupation, Lebanon "refrained from ratifying it," reiterating that Lebanon considers the agreement "virtually frozen." According to the Israeli paper *HATZOFE*, political circles in Jerusalem view the statement as an "attempt to draw closer to Syria," while senior sources in Jerusalem cited by *MA'ARIV* disclosed that U.S. Administration and senior Lebanese Government officials have reassured Israel that its representation in Lebanon "will not be harmed" and that the statement "does not express President al-Jumayyil's view on the subject." Meanwhile, Beirut radio revealed that "it has been unofficially reiterated" that Syria "accepts the amendment" of some of the agreement's provisions.

In another development Foreign Minister Elie Salim visited Damascus and discussed the Lebanese situation and President al-Jumayyil's European and American tour with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, according to Beirut and Damascus radios.

Following the Lebanese Cabinet's decision to sever relations with Iran, the Iranian charge d'affaires in Beirut was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and informed that all Iranian diplomats must leave Lebanon by 29 November, Beirut radio stated. Meanwhile, an Iranian delegation arrived in Ba'labakk to discuss the severance of relations, according to the Voice of Lebanon radio, which also reported that an Iranian center is to be established in that area to replace the embassy in Beirut.

Military Developments — On 26 and 27 November a military spokesman quoted by Damascus radio said that U.S. warplanes overflew Syrian positions in Lebanon but were "confronted" by Syrian air defenses and forced out to sea. On 27 November a security source cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that Lebanese security forces were trying to find booby-trapped vehicles in West Beirut. Clashes continued around Army positions in Suq al-Gharb and the mountain region 25-27 November, while villages and positions in the Al-Kharrub region south of Beirut came under heavy shelling on 27 November, according to Beirut radio.

Israel

Shamir U.S. Visit — Before leaving for the United States on 27 November, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir announced in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio that his talks in Washington will focus on ways to increase U.S.-Israeli cooperation and coordination, as well as on Lebanon, Syria, and the peace process. Shamir told *MA'ARIV* that he intends to discuss ways to expand the peace process and measures to deter the Syrians, "who threaten the region's stability and security." Earlier, in an interview with the radio, Shamir reaffirmed Israel's opposition to U.S. military aid to Jordan. While Israel understands that the United States should maintain friendly relations with Arab countries, "this friendship need not be expressed in the supply of arms."

Previewing the prime minister's visit to Washington, Jerusalem radio said successful talks are "guaranteed" by agreements and understandings reached during preparatory discussions between U.S. and Israeli officials.

Syria

Al-Asad's Recovery — In a message to the nation broadcast by Damascus radio on 27 November, President Hafiz al-Asad thanked citizens for their expressions of "joy and happiness" following reports of his recovery. Earlier, Damascus television screened film of the president presiding over a Ba'th Party Regional Command meeting during which he received congratulations on his recovery, according to SANA. The Syrian reportage on the president came after Israeli and Lebanese reports that his health was deteriorating. Jerusalem radio cited reports that Al-Asad had died, while Voice of Lebanon quoted Arab diplomatic sources in Damascus as reporting that Syrian authorities were preparing to move the president "to a French or American hospital" because of his condition.

Iran

New Air Force Commander — The Supreme Defense Council authorized Colonel Hushang Seddiq to take over command of the Air Force following the "resignation" of the former commander, Colonel Mo'inipur, and after obtaining Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's approval for the appointment, Tehran radio reported.

Diplomacy — Mostafa Mirsalim, adviser to President 'Ali Khamene'i, discussed Middle East issues with Foreign Minister Khaddam in Damascus, IRNA reported. Mirsalim is expected to deliver a message from Khamene'i to President al-Asad. An Iranian official in Mirsalim's delegation left Damascus for Tripoli in an attempt to help mediate in the PLO dispute, IRNA noted.

Iraq

In a telephone call to the KYODO office in Tehran, a spokesman for the Iraqi opposition Islamic Action Organization announced that the group rammed a car loaded with 230 kg of TNT into the Baghdad headquarters of the Iraqi secret police, killing about 100 persons. The spokesman also claimed the organization exploded a time bomb at a military supply base in Baghdad, killing "dozens." In a statement to INA, an Iraqi official source denied that any such incidents had taken place.

Chad

In a statement released in Libya and broadcast by the clandestine Bardai Chadian National Radio, the Libyan-backed opposition Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) "welcomed" the OAU chairman's initiative to convene talks in December between GUNT and the ruling FAN government led by President Hissein Habre, terming direct FAN-GUNT negotiation "the only way to put an end to the destruction of Chad." Meanwhile, in a communique published after a Cabinet meeting and reported by AFP, the Chadian Government agreed to a "reconciliation meeting" with the opposition to take place "soon" in Addis Ababa.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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Agreement on Tripoli Cease-Fire, Evacuation

Text of Statement

LD251231 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1149 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 25 Nov (SPA) — The following statement was issued in Damascus this morning:

The Governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, out of their assessment of the gravity of the continuation of the fighting taking place between the brothers in Tripoli and their concern for the unity of the PLO and its future, and also for the security and safety of the Lebanese citizens, charged their foreign ministers with the task of holding the necessary contacts to achieve a cease-fire and save the city of Tripoli, and to underline the principle of solving the differences within the Palestinian arena by political dialogue and peaceful means. Following the consultations and contacts carried out by the foreign ministers of the two countries with former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the deputy of Tripoli, the chairman of the PNC, and with the representatives of the parties to the conflict on the Palestinian side, agreement has been reached on the following:

1. A firm and permanent cease-fire and an end to the fighting.

2. The solving of Palestinian internal problems through political dialogue and peaceful means in order to preserve the unity of the PLO.

3. The departure of all armed Palestinians from Tripoli and the areas around it.

4. The Higher Coordination Committee in Tripoli, under the chairmanship of Rashid Karami, will supervise implemenation of the cease-fire and the departure of the armed Palestinians in accordance with arrangements laid down by the committee. This is to be carried out within a period not exceeding 2 weeks from the date of the communication of the arrangements laid down by the Higher Coordination Committee. The Syrian and the Saudi Governments will render the necessary assistance required by the Higher Coordination Committee to implement this.

Dissidents Voice Adherence

JN251903 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1837 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] A responsible source in the Fatah uprising today stated the following:

Paris Radio Monte Carlo has broadcast a report that the uprising has rejected the Syrian-Saudi agreement that was announced in Damascus today to stop fighting and save the city of Tripoli. We in the uprising affirm that the dissemination of this erroneous report was meant to spread confusion. It was a kind of obscurantism which Radio Monte Carlo practiced and continues to practice in favor of Yasir 'Arafat and in accordance with a decision by the French Government, which is an accomplice [mutawati'ah].

The uprising movement announces to the world that it has agreed to the agreement. It should be noted, however, that our demands were not to bring about the Palestinian fighters' departure from Tripoli and scatter them from the circle of struggle with the Zionist enemy.

We would like to affirm the uprising movement's adherence to the cease-fire, which the 'Arafatists have violated during the past 2 days. We also affirm our complete commitment to Rashid Karami's decisions concerning the situation inside Tripoli.

We hold 'Arafat responsible for violating the cease-fire and escalating tension inside the city. Had 'Arafat heeded Rashid Karami's calls weeks ago, he would have spared the city much affliction and disasters.

Again, we affirm that the natural position of the Palestinian fighters must be in direct contact with our Zionist enemy which is usurping our territory and homeland.

Uprising Issues Memorandum

NC261808 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 1553 GMT 26 Nov 83

["Memorandum" issued by Fatah uprising movement — date not given]

[Text] 1. Out of concern for the unity of the Fatah movement and the unity of the PLO and its organizations, we emphasize that the cause of the current conflict in the Palestinian arena is the political deviation that Yasir 'Arafat and his aides exercised, their departure from the Fatah political program and its internal bylaws, the failure to adhere to the PLO poltical and organizational programs, and the violation of the principles of the Palestine National Charter. This behavior was demonstrated in the consolidation of undemocratic relations in the PLO's organizations, diversion from the PNC resolutions, and forgery of PNC meeting resoltuions. This was represented in the agreements 'Arafat concluded with Philip Habib, King Husayn, and others, as well as his contacts with the Zionist enemy and organizational contravention of civilian and military aspects. In addition, financial and behavioral deviations became entrenched inside the Palestinian revolution and threatened its existence and future.

2. Yasir 'Arafat is directly responsible for the current infighting in the Palestinian arena according to his own statement. His personal spokesman said 'Arafat personally made the decision to fight and led the fighting to liquidate the revolutionary uprising. Having failed to achieve his goals in Al-Biqa', he moved his headquarters to northern Lebanon in order to make it a base to complete the mission that he said he wanted to implement there.

The latest fighting in northern Lebanon is a direct result of 'Arafat's moves. He met with utter failure and only Tripoli was open to him to save what he could of his political purposes in order ot cover his isolation and that of (?his masters). In addition, 'Arafat deliberately exacerbated the conflict as if it was a conflict primarily with Syria and Libya. He exaggerated the volume of losses and casualties, particularly in the camps. Certian hostile

information media concerned with the mission that 'Arafat went to implement in Tripoli helped 'Arafat in this exaggeration.

In view of the current situation, we feel dutybound to point out the following:

Proceeding from our national and pan-Arab responsibility, we are very concerned with safeguarding the city of Tripoli. We, however, know well the intentions of 'Arafat and his clique. Therefore, we announce our readiness to adhere to anything that will safeguard Tripoli and lift the suffering of its people. We announce our commitment to all the resolutions adopted by Rashid Karami and the National Salvation Front regarding this struggling city and our commitment to solve the existing problem. We believe in the need for 'Arafat's resignation from the PLO Executive Committee chairmanship. The PLO Executive Commitee can elect a provisional chairman from among its members until the Fatah congress and the PNC convene. In order to solve the differences within Fatah, we affirm our commitment to the memorandum of the Central Council in letter and spirit. We view this memorandum as the sound basis for solving the differences within Fatah.

We assert that there are no problems in our camps in northern Lebanon. We shoulder the full responsibility for the security of these camps. We affirm that our main course is to pool all our resources and to ally ourselves with the National Salvation Front and the Palestinian revolution forces in order to step up our confrontation with the Zionist enemy and foil imperialist-Zionist aims against our cause and the Arab area.

Sa'id Musa Muragha Comment

JN280748 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Text] In Tripoli, where guarded calm continues to prevail, basic differences have emerged on the interpretation of articles of the recent cease-fire agreement. Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], one of the opposition's leaders, announced that the agreement does not apply to the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps. He said: We will stay there to defend them against any Zionist aggression. He added: The withdrawal of the Palestinian forces from Tripoli and its environs is meant to revive the city's harbor. This decision does not apply to the Palestinian camps in the area.

Al-ANBA' on Leadership Dispute

LD271052 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0934 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Nov (KUNA) — Quoting responsible Palestinian sources, Kuwait's *AL-ANBA'* reported that a dispute occurred among the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat's PLO after the announcement of the Syrian-Saudi agreement concerning the cease-fire in northern Lebanon. The newspaper said: "The opposition leadership heard about the announcement from the media, but was not informed about it beforehand. This explains the rejection by Abu Khalid al-'Umlah, in the Nahr al-Barid camp, and the reserved acceptance of Abu Salih, who is in the friendship office in Damascus."

It added: "The dissidents' rejection annoyed the responsible Syrian authorities, who asked them to issue an acceptance announcement, and that was what actually happened. The dissident leaders' statement was issued at 0115 last Friday and broadcast by Damascus radio, which blamed Radio Monte Carlo for broadcasting information about the opposition's rejection of the agreement."

The same sources told the newspaper that the two Fatah Central Committee members Khalid al-Hasan and Rafiq an-Natshah have refused to meet the opposition leaders. The sources said: "The negotiations that took place in Damascus were Palestinian-Syrian-Saudi, and the Saudi role was intermediory."

The sources dismissed reports "that the Palestinian fighters will leave Tripoli for Jordan as rumored."

As-Sa'iqah Spokesman Quoted

NC270828 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 0520 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] An official spokesman for the vanguards of the popular liberation war, the As-Sa'iqah Palestinian forces, has stated the following:

We in the As-Sa'iqah forces affirm our adherence to the plan drawn up by [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami and adopted by the Damascus agreement. We wish 'Arafat had accepted this plan over 10 days ago so the bloodshed and destruction in dear Tripoli would have been avoided. However, 'Arafat, who views the issue from the perspective of possible maneuvers and makes decisions for tactical reasons, was not content with failing to respond to Karami's appeal. He is now trying to interpret the Syrian-Saudi agreement as he pleases. With this interpretation he wants to serve his propaganda and clownish goals.

We in the Palestinian As-Sa'iqah forces denounce and reject 'Arafat's suspect interpretation. We and the revolution groups affirm our eagerness to safeguard the fighters' rifles and stress our concern that they are not dispersed into exile. We also reject the humiliating manner 'Arafat is proposing to evacuate the fighters from Tripoli, whether by sea or land. We believe the departure of these men from Tripoli must take place in a proper military manner, free from the propaganda exploitation that 'Arafat wants. We assert that the only place these fighters must go to is the frontline with the Israeli enemy.

Regarding the revolution forces, no one can force them to leave the Palestinian camps. They alone are responsible for the security of the masses of our Palestinian people in the camps, as well as of these camps. We in the Palestinian As-Sa'iqah forces fully ahdere to the cease-fire and the agreement reached in Damascus on the basis of the clear understanding of the articles of this agreement, unlike the misleading tactics 'Arafat is using. 'Arafat entered Lebanon as an infiltrator and must leave it with only his aides and in the way he deems fit, but without uproar and clownish behavior. As for the fighters, their natural place is among us, among their comrades in arms, and among the brothers in the revolution.

'Arafat Rejects Direct Talks

JN261531 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat telephoned former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami in Damascus this morning and asked him to expedite the dispatch of an Arab military committee to Tripoli in order to resolve some questions related to the cease-fire. 'Arafat said: We have accepted the Saudi-Syrian agreement which was announced yesterday in the same way as we have previously accepted all other similar initiatives. However, this agreement remains a general one and requires a speedy discussion of all details.

Asked about the possibility of his departure from Tripoli, 'Arafat said: I and my forces are here according to the will of the leaders of this city. I will carry out whatever they decide.

'Arafat also announced that he refuses to hold direct talks with his Palestinian opponents, and said: We will discuss things with the Syrians, and not with the puppets they are manipulating.

Fahd-'Arafat; DFLP-PFLP Reaction

LD272244 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] WAFA has reported that brother leader Abu 'Ammar had a telephone conversation late last night with the Saudi monarch, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, in which he discussed the continuation of Saudi efforts to end the bloodletting in northern Lebanon. The agency said that Brother Abu 'Ammar informed the Saudi monarch of the latest news he had about the military concentrations and the preparations made by the forces hostile to the Palestinian revolution to attack Tripoli. The agency said that Brother Abu 'Ammar explained to the Saudi monarch the picture of the tragic conditions in Tripoli and Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps which are the result of 21 days of killing and siege and the departure of more than 35,000 Palestinians and Lebanese as a result of the siege by the hostile forces. WAFA pointed out that the Saudi king confirmed his firm support for the Palestinian people and the PLO, led by brother leader Abu 'Ammar, and also the continuation of Saudi efforts aimed at ending what is happening in northern Lebanon.

Within this context, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and the Palestinian Communist Party, in a joint communique issued in Damascus, called for the continuation of the political efforts by means of a democratic dialgoue inside the legitimate institutions of the PLO. The communique confirmed the right of all the forces of the Palestinian revolution to be in all the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. It added that, in the shadow of the present conditions and in view of the intensification of the Israeli-American threats, the departure of a Palestinian fighter from Lebanon cannot posibly be in the interest of the national and pan-Arab cause. The organizations welcomed the consolidation of the cease-fire in northern Lebanon, this being the first demand of the Palestinian civilians and a necessary introduction to the settlement of the crisis in the north.

PFLP Rejects Accord

LD252133 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Excerpt] KUNA has reported that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has rejected the Syrian-Saudi agreement to end the fighting in northern Lebanon. The agency cited an official PFLP spokesman saying that the Front categorically rejects the departure of any Palestinian combatant from northern Lebanon in particular and from the whole of Lebanon in general. The spokesman said that discussion must focus on the return of Palestinian combatannts to where they should be to confront the Israeli enemy. The spokesman attributed the Front's rejection of the Syrian-Saudi agreement to the fact that it was made without consulting the legitimate organizations of the PLO.

Khalid al-Fahum Interview

JN251915 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1743 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Interview with PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum by Radio Monte Carlo News Director Antoine Nawfal carried within weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program — live or recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] Brother Khalid, the agreement on Tripoli is ambiguous although it clearly announces the names of the figures who have been called upon to play an important role. In fact, during his review of the clauses of the agreement, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam emphasized two names: Rashid Karami, who will represent the Lebanese, and Khalid al-Fahum, who will represent the Palestinians. Brother Khalid, is this an indication of the role you played during the negotiations or for the role which you could be called upon to play in the future?

[Al-Fahum] First of all, I would like to thank all the brothers who have placed their trust in me. In fact, it is the duty of the PNC speaker to play any role that would result in an end to the Palestinian internecine fighting, which is absolutely rejected by every Arab and Palestinian. In any role played by the speaker, his first duty isto end the fighting. Second, the end of the fighting is, as you know, Brother Antoine, in itself a positive move but not sufficient. We must work intensively to preserve the unity of the PLO and to abandon violence and adopt political dialogue. I hope to play any role, no matter how modest, in this regard.

[Nawfal] Brother Khalid, the agreement does not mention Abu 'Ammar, only the fighters. Does this mean that Yasir 'Arafat will leave Tripoli when all the fighters leave?

[Al-Fahum] First of all, it is unreasonable for the PNC speaker to ask Brother Abu 'Ammar to either leave or stay. This is up to Brother Abu 'Ammar personally. However, I believe that since Tripoli is a nationalist city, which has always proved that it is a friend of Palestine and the Palestinian issue, our principal duty is to spare it destruction and ruination. Thus, I believe that for the PLO's three higher institutions — the Executive Committee, the PLO Central Council, and the PNC — to play its role is a difficult thing to achieve in the absence of Brother Abu 'Ammar.

Therefore, we hope Brother Abu 'Ammar will be able to actively participate in the work of the PLO's institutions. In my opinion this necessitates his presence outside Tripoli.

[Nawfal] You participated in all stages of the negotiations. What were the positions of the various sides?

[Al-Fahum] In fact, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, you know, was negotiating along with two brothers from the Fatah Central Committee — Brothers Khalid al-Hasan and Rafiq an-Natshah. On his part, Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal more than once daily. The ideas were conveyed to the brothers in the opposition, who would reply. In fact, I noticed that there was one thing in common, an issue that was stressed more than others throughout the dialogue — an end to the fighting. All the brothers had a strong desire to end the fighting and prevent the fighting from spreading to the city of Tripoli. This is because everyone appreciated the important role of this Arab, Lebanese, and national city. Thus, no one wanted the destruction to reach this city.

The third thing that the sides had in common is that the stage after the end of internecine fighting and the departure of all the forces from northern Lebanon — and I do not say only Tripoli as a mere city — is a necessary stage for starting political dialogue within the framework of the PLO and Palestinian action. Therefore, all the sides had something in common, and this represents a common denominator which I hope will be a big opportunity and a breathing space to end the fighting in preparation for starting political dialogue.

[Nawfal] I am not going to ask you if you support the agreement. I believe you support it.

[Al-Fahum] In fact, is it possible for any Palestinian to say to you that he supports the fighting? Ending the fighting is important. I support the departure of the forces from Tripoli, Brother Antoine, because it is time that we devote ourselves to Palestine and the Palestinian issue. You know that by our principal rule it is inadmissible for the PLO to interfere in the internal affairs of any country. In my opinion, the departure of the fighters is necessary. Tripoli has never been a hostile city. On the contrary, it is a nationalist city. If I want to go into details, Fawzi al-Qawibji, the first commander of the Palestinian revolution in 1936, came from Tripoli. 'Abd al-Hamid Karami used to participate in demonstrations. I was a student in Beirut at that time, against France for the sake of Palestine. Rashid Karami is alo a devoted nationalist, whether he was in power or in parliament. All the Tripoli figures have proven that the are nationalist, Palestinian figures. Naturally, I support the agreement.

I hope that the National Salvation Front will be able to supervise and implement this agreement regarding an effective and very speedy withdrawal. I do not want the withdrawal of the Palestinian fighters to take long because the longer it takes the weaker the efforts will be.

[Nawfal] Do you think that the problem of the number of the fighters who will leave Tripoli has been resolved?

[Al-Fahum] In my opinion, I do not think there is a great obstacle. In fact, I do not want to answer your question. However, my information on the number comes from the brothers and this information is neither direct nor accurate. In fact, the information that I receive is exaggerated. Therefore, I do not believe that the number poses any problem.

[Nawfal] We have said that the clauses of the agreement were ambiguous, making the observer doubt that it can be implemented. In your opinion, how and when will be agreement be implemented?

[Al-Fahum] I believe that efforts must continue to be exerted by the brothers, whether in the Gulf, Saudi Arabia, or North Africa. I think these brothers must continue their efforts with the Palestinian negotiators in Fatah and other factions. Therefore, if there is any ambiguity — and I believe that there is — we must say that there is no ambiguity and act as if the agreement is clear based on an end to the fighting, the departure of the Palestinian fighters, and the start of political dialogue within the framework of the PLO.

[Nawfal] A final question: Are all the sides that participated in the agreement actually satisfied with it? Do you think Abu 'Ammar will be satisfied on his part?

[Al-Fahum] In fact, I do not know the opinion of Brother Abu 'Ammar. However, I hope that he is satisfied because we are all concerned about Tripoli. It is time that we devote ourselves to Palestine and the Palestinian issue and direct our efforts to confront Israeli expansionism and occupation. It is time that we join efforts to resist Israel, its expansionism and aggression. We must completely adhere to the PNC resolutions.

The agreement was not easily reached because there was give and take, as you know, and this is natural. When you have two sides, it is normal for one side to ask too much and afterward concede. This must apply to our future political dialogue. No side has the right to insist on this or that opinion. As you know, the dialogue involves giving and taking. Therefore, I believe that Brother Abu 'Ammar will also be satisfied with this agreement. At any rate, Brother Antoine, Brother Abu as-Sa'id [Khalid al-Hasan] and Rafiq an-Natshah, members of the Executive Committee, [words indistinct] for the agreement to be imposed on them.

Al-Hasan Explains Terms

JN251958 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1809 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Telephone interview with Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, By Radio Monte Carlo's News Director Antoine Nawfal carried within weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" — live or recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] We are almost at the end of our program. Can you give us a picture of the practical aspects of the agreement that was reached in Damascus between Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam?

[Al-Hasan] We can say that the agreement can be divided as follows: First, there are facts or practical steps which will be firmly and permanently implemented on the ground from the day the agreement is signed. This is represented in the first paragraph concerning the firm and permanent cease-fire and the halt to the fighting. This means that we will bypass the difficult stage which harms the Arab people and nation at these delicate times.

Then comes the second principle which will not be immediately implemented unless the cease-fire is affirmed in a permanent manner. This principle pertains to solving the internal Palestinian differences by political dialogue and not by the rifle. This principle will be postponed in view of the current circumstances. It is postponed in terms of a few weeks and not indefinitely.

The other practical point is the departure of the armed persons in order to save Tripoli from the imminent attack. Brother Abu 'Ammar has repeatedly announced his readiness to do whatever he can to avoid the destruction of Tripoli and the suffering of its beloved people. The practical aspect of this issue will be implemented by the Tripoli Higher Coordination Committee, which will be presided over by Rashid Karami.

What is required now is for Abu 'Ammar to make the necessary arrangements for the departure process. As for 'Arafat, a direct contact should take place between him and Brother Rashid Karami. As a result of this, the factors needed to implement the departure process will become clear. At this point comes the role of Saudi Arabia and Syria, which will extend everything necessary to implement this operation.

If the cease-fire is sustained and the departure process is carried out peacefully, another phase will begin: the phase during which those who lost their minds will return to reason and think in the proper manner. They will learn that arms have never been a means of settling differences among brothers. We hope that during this operation, it will be possible to convene the PNC, which is the legislative authority that will discuss the differences and the future relations and make the necessary decisions within this framework, taking into account proposals from all comrades in this regard.

[Nawfal] Did you contact Abu 'Ammar today to inform him of the agreement details?

[Al-Hasan] I have been in permanent contact with Brothers Abu 'Ammar and Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], and even with the Fatah Central Committee members in Algeria and Tunisia. Our consultations were complete and comprehensive. They agreed on all these issues before I conveyed the Fatah Central Committee's official agreement.

[Nawfal] What about the practical arrangements for the departure of the Palestinian fighters from Tripoli? How will this departure take place? How will 'Arafat's departure take place?

[Al-Hasan] Abu 'Ammar will consider his own needs. He will reach an agreement to this effect with Rashid Karami. Then Saudi Arabia and Syria will ensure the necessary requirements, such as the technical means and other things.

[Nawfal] 'Arafat, then, agrees to leave Tripoli?

[Al-Hasan] Of course, he agreed to leave.. [sentence incomplete] I mean that the agreement stipulated the departure of all armed forces from Tripoli and its environs, not just 'Arafat's or the Fatah forces' departure, the departure of all Palestinian armed elements from Tripoli and its environs.

[Nawfal] Do you have an idea about the number of the fighters?

[Al-Hasan] Undoubtedly, a few thousand. This is not the problem.

[Nawfal] That is not the problem?

[Al-Hasan] [The problem] is to stop the fighting, save Tripoli, and end the idea of resorting to arms to solve any dispute.

[Nawfal] Thank you, Brother Khalid al-Hasan.

Khalil al-Wazir Comment

GF260836 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0748 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 26 Nov (WAKH) — Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has said that Fatah's Central Committee agreed to the Saudi-Syrian accord to spare Tripoli a new massacre. In a telephone conversation with Abu Jihad, today's issue of the Ash-Shariqah-based newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* quoted him as saying that the agreement was reached on the basic clauses relating to stabilizing the cease-fire and then to deal with the Tripoli cause through political efforts.

On Yasir 'Arafat statement about an expected attack on Tripoli, Abu Jihad said the concentration of troops on all axes around the city indicates to us the preparations for a major attack. We feared this step which some might resort to in order to undermine the cease-fire agreement because there are parties which have no interest in stopping the bloodshed, he said. Abu Jihad expected an all-out attack on the Al-Mina axis to isolate it from the city of Tripoli and to complete the siege on it. This information was conveyed to Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal during his stay in Damascus and to the members of the Fatah Central Committee. We told them that there are massive preparations for a military operation on the Al-Mina area, Abu Jihad said.

Regarding the clause pertaining to the withdrawal of Palestinian forces from Tripoli, Abu Jihad said this issue is under discussion and no talk has started on it because it is a complicated matter with many ramifications. He said Fatah will continue to cooperate with Rashid Karami and will contact him to facilitate his mission as soon as he returns to Tripoli.

In reply to a question on the relationship between what is going on in Lebanon with that which is going on in the region, he said: What is happening to the Palestinian revolution is clear and known. It is part of the framework of the comprehensive settlement which Arab and U.S. parties are manipulating which

is intended to fulfill the Zionist goal sought by committing his aggression on Lebanon in 1982. Abu Jihad said that the Palestinian resistance is being subjected to is a complementary step to the Zionist aggression. He affirmed that the will of the Palestinian people which is imbued with their martyrs' blood will not kneel to these attempts, regardless of their forms and methods.

Abu Jihad praised the Soviet stand on the Palestinian resistance and said the Soviet Union is doing its best to stop the expansion of the conflict between the PLO and Syria because this conflict affects the front which is able to resist the Zionist enemy. He said the resistance understands the range the Soviets can move in and also understands that their moves are effective. Abu Jihad considered the comments which appeared in the media of the socialist countries which focused on the importance of Yasir 'Arafat's role in the Palestinian action to be an indication of the nature of the Soviet stand which supports the Palestinian revolution and the PLO under 'Arafat.

Abu Jihad also lauded the French role in the exchange of the prisoners of war. Fatah appreciates the remarkable progress in France's stand on the Palestinian people's cause, he said.

Dissidents Reject 'Arafat Departure Plan

NC251434 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 1410 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] The Fatah uprising movement has affirmed that it rejects 'Arafat's proposals for the departure of fighters from Tripoli. The movement insists that only 'Arafat and his aides leave.

During the current contacts in Damascus, 'Arafat's followers, namely Khalid al-Hasan and Rafiq an-Natshah, submitted a plan for the departure of Palestinian fighters from Tripoli similar to the plan submitted by Philip Habib for the departure of fighters from Beirut and Lebanon. In reply to this, the Fatah uprising movement declared that it rejects the departure of the fighters from Tripoli by sea and rejects their being scattered in the Arab countries, as happened last summer, because this is considered a plot and because the fighters' natural position is not in Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan, or Yemen but in the arena of struggle against the Israeli enemy.

The Fatah uprising movement affirmed that the 'Arafatite plan submitted by Khalid al-Hasan and Rafiq an-Natshah complements the departure plan submitted and implemented by Philip Habib for the departure of the fighters. This 'Arafatite plan is denounced and rejected.

PLO Radio on Cease-Fire, Choices For Palestinians

JN231910 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1608 GMT 23 Nov 83

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, when we accept the cease-fire, we do this out of the concern of our revolution and its legitimate leadership over the need to spare blood, to safeguard our masses' lives, and to prevent the exhaustion of our energies which were originally mobilized to fight the Zionist enemy. Furthermore, our revolution is concerned about the lives of the misled Syrian and Libyan soldiers. However, we realize that the cease-fire does not mean under all circumstances the end of the liquidation plot aimed against our revolution and its legitimate leadership, for the Syrian regime's acceptance of the cease-fire is mainly intended to gain time in order to start its political blackmail and deceiving of our revolution. Besides, this regime is engaged in striking at the Lebanese Nationalist Forces.

There is no doubt that the cease-fire may fall at any minute as a result of the Syrian rulers' premeditated intentions and their determination to implement the liquidation plot. This is indicated by its reinforcing the military forces besieging the city of Tripoli and Al-Baddawi camp. These forces have received specific military orders to storm the city of Tripoli. The Syrian regime's forces are acting in light of this military order, whether in their positions or in view of their offensive military situation and the rearrangement of their ranks. This means it is only a matter of time before the countdown begins from a military point of view.

If all indications in the field clearly denote that the Syrian regime's military plan is to attack Tripoli from all axes with the aim of storming and destroying it, there remain other indications represented in several statements and threats made by the regime's leaders and agents, such as Ahmad Jibril. The latter indications lead to the same conclusion: a determination to liquidate our revolution and its legitimate leadership and to confiscate our independent decisionmaking. In addition, the various Syrian news media confirm the aforementioned conclusion through hints and statements. One can smell the scent of blood and crime in the Syrian media's words, words which stem from the military field order given to the forces besieging the city of Tripoli.

In light of all these facts and proof, we say that our revolution is fully aware of the extent of the plot and the objectives of the plotters, who have left us with one choice: the choice of war. This war will be fought from a position to defend Palestine, its land, people, revolution, and cause. We will do this until the last Palestinian cub fighter, regardless of the onslaught's brutality, size, and the identity of the perpetrators. We must say that if self-defense seems to be our sole choice, then victory is also our sole choice and decision, whether this pleases the plotters or not.

PFLP's Abu Sharif on Cease-Fire, Withdrawal Plan

JN250750 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Interview with PFLP Political Bureau member Bassam Abu Sharif by Kamal Tarabay, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Paris, on 24 November 1983 — recorded]

[Text] [Tarabay] Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, under the relative calm that has been prevailing in the city of Tripoli and its environs for 1 or 2 days, there is increasing talk about intensive efforts to reach a final agreement both on a cease-fire in Tripoli and on the departure of the Palestinian fighters from the city. Do you think that this agreement has become a fait accompli or that there are objective possibilities for reaching such an agreement?

[Abu Sharif] We believe there is an objective possibility for reaching an agreement. This expectation is based on the fact that the region is facing something very serious: New, large-scale aggressions by the U.S. forces are likely to take place. There is an impending danger of southern Lebanon's being swallowed up, and there is general tension in both our region and in the world as a result of the hostile U.S. policy. Naturally, this objective basis does not mean that an imminent agreement is expected on all problems, despite our great hopes that we will reach such an agreement as soon as possible.

I believe that the draft agreement currently being proposed has a large gap from our point of view as a Palestinian revolution. We believe the Palestinian fighters who will depart from the region should return to the frontlines with the Zionist enemy. We do not want another sea [as heard] for the Palestinian fighters. We want them to return to the confrontation line with the Zionist enemy, so that they can face the basic contradiction. This is one point.

On the other hand, we hope the cease-fire and its continuation will really lead to creating an opportunity for a serious political dialogue so that all the Palestinian and Arab forces can assume their responsibilities toward the method of confronting the serious consequences of a U.S.-Zionist aggression against our region through the gates of Lebanon. This requires an understanding among the Palestinian forces regarding the solution to all differences through democratic dialogue and through the PLO's legitimate institutions. It also requires a Palestinian-Arab dialogue on the ways and means of this confrontation.

[Tarabay] Brother Abu Sharif, the Palestinian fighters are presumably required to leave Tripoli and its environs if the cease-fire is expected to hold. The departure of the Palestinian fighters requires the departure of Abu 'Ammar, the first fighter in Tripoli. Is Abu 'Ammar ready to leave Tripoli and the north?

[Abu Sharif] I understand from the statements made recently that the subject of the departure of the fighters, led by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, depends on a political agreement. We hope the necessary conditions for the fighters' departure to the confrontation lines with the Zionist enemy will be met. We also hope the PLO will restore its full activity through all of its institutions under its legitimate leadership — the Executive Committee, the Central Council — so that we can settle all differences by political dialogue and so that we can again push our revolutionary march ahead and try hard — and we are certain that we can do so — to restore the PLO's former prestige and status.

We believe in the support the Palestinian masses both inside and outside the occupeid territories have extended to the unity and reform program, which calls for promoting and reforming the PLO's institutions as well as for preserving their unity and effectiveness. This program is the means of salvation for all sides. We seriously propose it as a basis for dialogue, which we hope will begin shortly.

[Tarabay] Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, you said that the departure from the north and Tripoli will prompt the resistance to take up positions on the confrontation lines with Israel. Where will these lines be? Will they be in Al-Biqa' or in southern Lebanon, even though agreements were concluded with the Lebanese Government to terminate Palestinian armed action on the southern borders with Israel? How do you view the possibility of resuming fighting against Israel, and from which front?

[Abu Sharif] We believe that the field of struggle against the Zionist enemy is not confined to one geographical site. First of all, there is our occupied territory — occupied Palestine — in which 2.5 million Palestinians are living. We should work hard — andwe have actually begun this — to escalate our battle against the occupation forces which are trying to swallow up our Palestinian land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. All fighters should concentrate their efforts on this target instead of resorting to arms in order to solve their internecine differences. This is one site. The other site has a big headline saying that the Palestinian fedayeen have the right to fight the Zionist enemy from all the Arab borders without asking permission to do so from anybody — be it a regime, authority, or organ. Our borders with Palestine should be open to the Palestinian fedayeen.

[Tarabay] Excuse me, is the Golan included?

[Abu Sharif] Including the Golan, Sinai, and Jordan's borders. This is a general rule, and we will work to see that the Palestinian fedayeen are real fedayeen who set out to liberate their territory. Regarding Lebanon, we frankly place all of our capabilities at the disposal of the Lebanese Nationalist Forces. We are confident that these Lebanese Nationalist Forces oppose Zionism, all the forces that are now occupying their land, and both fascism and U.S. imperialism.

[Tarabay] Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, you are talking about a possible U.S. strike in the region or about an imminent Middle East Grenada. How do you define this strike, and what are your reasons for saying this?

[Abu Sharif] We really expect the aggressive U.S. militarism to deal a blow to the forces that are confronting the U.S. plan — the PLO, Syria, and the Lebanese Nationalist Forces. Our reasons for saying this are due to the hostile U.S. line that has been embodied in more than one area in this world, including Lebanon. The second point is that the information we possess indicates that the U.S. forces have recently reinforced the Marines in Lebanon. A large number of U.S. Marines, vehicles, and mounted guns have been placed on the Ash-Shuwayfat coast and have taken up positions at the axis between Khaldah and the southern suburb of Beirut. We cannot isolate this reinforcement from the hostile U.S. policy in our region and other parts of the world. We cannot predict the area that will be subjected to a U.S. blow. However, we can accurately say that the positions of the Lebanese Nationalist Forces, the Palestinian national forces, and Syria — forces that are allied against the U.S. scheme — will be the targets of such attacks.

Rafiq an-Natshah on Jordan Talks, Soviet Stand

JN240959 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 24 Nov 83 p 10

[Yusuf al-Hamdani dispatch]

[Excerpts] *AKHBAR AL-USBU'* — Riyadh — Rafiq an-Natshah, PLO representative in Saudi Arabia, has praised the Jordanian- Palestinian talks and cooperation in support of our kinfolk's steadfastness. An-Natshah also praised the Saudi role in support of the PLO and the Palestine cuase.

In a statement to the *AKHBAR AL-USBU'* correspondent, An-Natshah spoke clearly and frankly about the topics preoccupying the Palestinian and Arab public opinion — the Jordanian-Palestinian contacts, Egypt's return to Arab ranks, the USSR's stand on the PLO, Saudi Arabia's stand under the Saudi monarch in support of the PLO, and the need to maintain the independent decisionmaking of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

On the Jordanian-Palestinian meeting held recently in Tunis, An-Natshah said: You realize the importance of the common subjects between the PLO and Jordan. These subjects are of great importance to our people. The fact is that the continuation and expansion of the Israeli settlements and brutal measures against our kinfolk in the occupied territories are taking palce silently and with U.S. support. The Tunis talks dealt with ways of confronting these measures and of supporting our people so that they will be able to remain steadfast in the face of this brutal Israeli onslaught. The dominant topic in the talks was calling on the Arab countries that have not yet fulfilled thier commitments to support our kinfolk's steadfastness in the occupied territories in the face of the Israeli terrorism. There was a general assessment during the Tunis meeting of the Jordanian-PLO dialogue, and future plans to achieve joint objectives were discussed.

On the PLO's stand toward Egypt's participation in the next Arab summit conference, An-Natshah said: We have always said that Egypt is an important and essential part of the Arab nation. The Arab nation has placed Egypt in the leading position so many times because of its Arab and international positions. We believe that some day Egypt will not deviate day from the Arab line. It will always remain a part of the Arab nation. Egypt's political stands and its participation in an Arab summit conference fall within the framework of the agreement on the principles and stages. [sentence as published] Everyone needs to study this.

On the Soviet role on the PLO, Rafiq an-Natshah said: The USSR's political stands, as they have always been declared, support our just rights. We welcome these stands and consider the USSR a friend. Since we do not get all that we want from the USSR, we seek a stronger relationship and more support for our rights in both the political and nonpolitical spheres. Frankly, the USSR has not yet supported the Arab people and the Palestinian revolution in the same way that the United States supports Israel. We are not desperate. We will continue with our friendship until we reach the level we want. This is one of the Palestinian revolution's tasks.

PLO Delegation Member on Moscow Trip

LD261137 Kuait KUNA in Arabic 1051 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Moscow, 26 Nov (KUNA) — Members of a Palestinian delegation that had talks here with Soviet officials today said that the Soviet Union has reaffirmed that it will remain "a solid and strong supporter of the PLO under Yasir 'Arafat's leadership." The members of the delegation, led by chairman of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi, talked to a KUNA correspondent here prior to the end of an official visit to the Soviet Union. The delegation also includes the official in charge of Palestinian Information Department, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, and Fatah Central Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas.

The delegation members said: "The Soviet leadership reaffirmed its commitment to all the pledges it made to back the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, and Mr Gromyko asked us to convey the greetings of Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov to the struggling Palestinian people and to the PLO under the leadership of Brother Yasir 'Arafat."

During the visit, the Palestinian delegation discussed with Soviet officials the dispute rocking the Fatah movement which erupted in the form of a war and fierce fighting on 3 November. The clashes ended 4 days ago after an agreement on a cease-fire had been achieved. Discussions between the Palestinian and Soviet officials also covered other issues, particularly the Middle East crisis, the Lebanese crisis, and the situation in the Arab occupied lands.

The members of the delegation told KUNA that their talks with the Soviet side headed by Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko were "extremely fruitful. We did not expect them to be so successful." They added that the Soviet Union had "affirmed that it would further support the PLO by all military, political, and economic means, and at all levels." They said: "At the same time, the Soviet Union expressed its support for Syria in all fields so that it will remain strong and steadfast in the face of the Israeli aggressor. It also emphasized that the recent disputes serve only the enemies of the Palestinian Arab people and the enemies of the whole Arab nation."

'Arafat Receives Message From Soviet Leaders

LD272257 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] The brother leader, Abu Ammar, yesterday received a message of solidarity from the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the occasion of the 29 November International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The message was delivered by the Soviet charge d'affaires in Tunis, who was received by Brother Abu J'afar, director of the PLO Political Department's office headquarters in Tunis. The Soviet leaders' message reads: We send to the PLO and all the Palestinian people our greetings and wishes of success in their struggle for the achievements of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including the setting up of their own independent state.

The message said that the PLO, which has won international recognition and respect as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, leads this struggle. The Soviet leaders believe that the essential condition for success of the Palestinian resistance movement is the guarantee of the unity and cohesion of all groups of the Palestinian revolution. Finally, the Soviet message confirms that the USSR, based on its prinicipled attitudes, will continue to support the Palestinian people and the other Arab peoples in their struggle for their legitimate rights and the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

PNC Members in Jordan Support Joint Command Plan

JN241042 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Nov 83 p 21

[Text] Amman — *AD-DUSTUR* — The PNC members in Jordan have presented a memorandum to the PNC speaker, the PLO chairman, and Executive Committee members and the secretaries general of the Palestinian resistance factions announcing their support for the initiative declared by the joint command of the PFLP-Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP].

The following is the text of the memorandum: As we watch the bloody events in northern Lebanon and the Palestinian refugee camps, the PNC members residing in Jordan declare their support for the positive initiative the PFLP-DFLP joint command adopted to immediately end the bloody fighting in northern Lebanon and to abandon military means of solving differences between patriotic factions. We also support the important items included in the initiative that are aimed at solving all differences within Fatah or within PLO institutions by democratic methods. They will safeguard the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and maintain the PLO's legitimate leadership.

GCC Interior Ministers Meet in Riyadh

LD280955 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0825 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Nov (SPA) — Interior ministers of the GCC began their third conference at 1115 today at the GCC headquarters. The meeting is chaired by Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh Khalid ibn Hamad Al Thani.

Closed-Door Session

LD281107 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1022 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Nov (SPA) — Interior ministers of the GCC member-states ended their closed-door session at 1230 today. The ministers will resume their meeting this evening.

KUWAIT

Cabinet Briefed on PLO, Other Issues

LD271417 Kuwait KUNA in English 1140 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 27 (KUNA) — The Council of Ministers convened Sunday on its weekly regular session under H.H. The Crown Prince and Prime Minister Hsaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim As-Sabah, and discussed latest Palestinian developments and other internal and global issues. The secretary general of the Council Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Utaybi said the cabinet was briefed on messages sent by Turkish President Kenan Evren and Cypriot President Spyros Kipranou to H.H. the amir. The cabinet was also briefed on the visit to Kuwait by Saudi Crown Prince, first Deputy premier and Commander of the National Guards 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud and the issues reviewed at the official meetings of the delegations of both countries, Utaybi said.

Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad briefed the cabinet on discussions with the non-aligned ministerial mediation delegation which aimed at consulting and coordinating with efforts of the Gulf Cooperation Council states toward reaching an end to the inter-Palestinian fighting in north Lebanon and ending their differences, Utaybi said.

The Council of Ministers also reviewed Arab developments, particularly on the Palestinian arena and the agreement reached on a ceasefire and listened to a number of messages from Kuwaiti missions abroad on the situation within the PLO ranks and in north Lebanon, he added.

Utaybi said the cabinet was also briefed by Minister of Oil and Finance Shaykh Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah on the meetings held by the ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum exporting countries (OAPEC) in Kuwait and the issues tackled and resolutions and recommendations adopted.

Interior minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir As-Sabah informed the cabinet on results of his Gulf tour which aimed at consulting and coordinating with the interior ministries of the GCC states on security, administrative and organizational affairs. The cabinet was also told of the GCC interior ministers conference to be held in Riyadh Monday, Utaybi said.

He added that Social affairs, Labor and Housing Minister Hamad 'Isa ar-Rujayb has acquainted the cabinet with the meeting of the Arab housing ministers which took place in Tunis and which tackled the issues of housing and reconstruction in the Arab world.

The cabinet agreed on recommendations by the Higher Committee for Major Projects and Structural Plan on the construction of a village in (Al-Wafra) area and a city in (Az-Zur) area and also agreed to lease 400-meter land plots for Kuwaitis living in those two areas who applied for housing. The plots will be given for those eligible for houses.

The cabinet, Utaybi said, agreed on Kuwait's contribution for the United Nations Development Program for 1984 amounting to U.S. dollar 570,000.

The cabinet was briefed on messages from the National Assembly and decided to extend the tenure of the Central Tenders committee members for another two years as of January 1984. The cabinet has also been briefed on reports from delegations that represented Kuwait at international and Arab conferences and adopted their recommendations.

Cuban Delegation Continues Activities

Meet Amir, Prime Minister

LD261156 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] His excellency the amir of Kuwait received the Cuban foreign minister and the minister of state for construction at 0900 today on the occasion of their visit to the country. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and information minister, and the Cuban ambassador to Kuwait attended the meeting.

His highness the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdullah as-Salim as-Sabah, received Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, Minister of State for Construction [title as heard] Levi Farah, and the delegation accompanying them at 1000 at government house on the occasion of their visit to the country. Kuwaiti permanent UN delegate Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Hasan and the Cuban ambassador to Kuwait attended the meeting.

Ar-Rashid on Talks

LD261757 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1716 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait 26 Nov (KUNA) — Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Rashid ar-Rashid said tonight that the Kuwaiti and the Cuban sides discussed bilateral relations and means to develop them in the technical and investment fields... and that these matters have been referred to the quarters concerned for them to follow up. In a press statement at the end of the 90-minutes talks, Rashid ar-Rashid added that the two sides discussed the Middle East question, the situation in Lebanon, and the conditions of the Palestinian resistance. He said that the two sides agreed on the need to continue to consolidate the cease-fire and to solve the differences between the detachments of the resistance through democratic dialogue since the triumph of the Palestinian issue, for which everyone is struggling, lies in the unity of the resistance.

Ar-Rashid went on to say that the two sides reviewed in a comprehensive manner the Iraqi-Iranian war and all the efforts and activities carried out by international and regional organizations. The two sides agreed on the need to stop this war between two neighboring countries, both members of the Nonaligned Movement. He also pointed out that the Cuban side explained the present situation in Central America and the Caribbean.

Foreign Minister Ends Visit

LD280941 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0707 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, 28 Nov (KUNA) — Cuban Minister of Foreign Relations Isidoro Malmierca left here today after a 4-day official visit during which he had talks with senior Kuwaiti officials. During that visit the Cuban minister met with Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah; Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of foreign affairs, and minister of information. The talks centered on bilateral relations, matters of mutual interest, the Nonaligned Movement's efforts to solve the Middle East problem, and ending the fighting between Palestinians in the northern Lebanon.

UAE

Joint Statement Issued on Es-Sebsi Visit

GF261450 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1340 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Nov (WAKH) — The UAE and Tunisia have reiterated their absolute support for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, for restoring their usurped rights, and for establishing their independent state on their national soil. They called for a cease-fire between the disputing factions and for resorting to dialogue through the legitimate Palestinian institutions to settle differences.

In a joint statement issued here today following the visit of Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi to the UAE, the two countries stressed the necessity of national reconciliation and liberating Lebanon from the usurping Israeli occupation and maintaining its sovereignty, Arabism, and stability. The two sides expressed their concern over the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war and stressed the necessity of ending it and bringing about a solution that can enable the two Islamic countries to devote their energies to the service of the Arab and Islamic nations.

The two countries stressed the necessity of bolstering Arab solidarity and settling the minor differences in order to confront the threats and challenges facing the Arab nation. The UAE and Tunisia affirmed their solid determination to support Arab-African cooperation in favor of the mutual interests of the Arab nation and African peoples.

YAR

Arab League's Klibi Concludes Visit 24 Nov

GF251916 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, left San'a' this afternoon following a brief visit to the republic, during which he met with Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. In a predeparture statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Mr Klibi said that he and the brother president discussed the situation in the Arab region in general and in northern Lebanon in particular. He noted that the discussion also focused on preparations for the upcoming summit conference by the host country [Saudi Arabia] and by the General Secretariat of the Arab League. Mr Klibi concluded his statement by saying that he found President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih very anxious to support the joint Arab action and to defend our just questions.

He was seen off at the airport by Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, foreign minister and secretary of the Standing Committee.

Mubarak, Aides Discuss Domestic, Foreign Issues

NC271317 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak this morning met with Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; People's Assembly Speaker Kamil Laylah; Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim; Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; and Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha.

Following the meeting, Dr Muhyi ad-Din, prime minister and NDP secretary general, said President Mubarak discussed domestic and foreign issues. On domestic issues, President Mubarak stressed the need for solving the masses' problems and the method the ministers and governors follow in solving these problems. Mubarak recommended the convening of continuous meetings between ministers and governors on the one hand and the masses on the others, visiting the masses' centers, and defining and discussing the masses' problems before holding these meetings to solve them. If these problems are found to be general, they must be included in the 5-year development plan.

Muhyi ad-Din said the meeting then reviewed Cairo's problems and the projects that have started, such as sewage, water, electricity, telephones, and tunnels. He stressed that these projects are being satisfactorily implemented in accordance with specific schedules. Muhyi ad-Din said the Cairo and Al-Jizah governors will explain to the citizens through the media the extent of progress in implementing these projects. Muhyi ad-Din will meet with the governors tomorrow for coordination between them and the ministers and will stress these points.

On the international situation, President Mubarak discussed the situation in Lebanon. Muhyi ad-Din stressed that Egypt supports the Palestinian legitimacy and is following up the conflict between 'Arafat's supporters and the dissidents. The conflict has affected the Arab issue in general and the Palestinian issue in particular. He stressed that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is making constant moves on the latest events in Chad. The meeting also discussed the start of negotiations with the parties concerned and the situation and developments in the Horn of Africa. Concluding his statement, Muhyi ad-Din said Mubarak also discussed international developments and their effect on Egyptian interests.

Ghali on Palestinian Issue, U.S., European Role

NC252200 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, stated in Bern today that Egypt is currently doing everything in its power to find a solution to the Palestinian crisis and that it is continuing its contacts with both Yasir 'Arafat and his opponents. Replying to journalists after his meeting with Swiss President Pierre Aubert, Dr Ghali pointed out that Cairo continues to regard Yasir 'Arafat as the legitimate leader of the PLO. Dr Ghali also dealt with U.S. policy in the Middle East. He said that, in its capacity as one of the signatories of the Camp David agreement signed by Israel, Egypt, and the United States, Washington should adhere to the letter of neutrality. He added that the Europeans should assume an important role in the Middle East.

Ghali To Deliver Mubarak Message to Honecker

NC261520 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Tomorrow Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, will begin a 3-day visit to East Germnay during which he will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to Erich Honecker, chairman of the GDR State Council. Ghali will also hold talks with the German foreign affairs minister on the developments in the situation in the Middle East, international questions, and bilateral relations.

Dr Ghali Holds News Conference in Bern

NC262230 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Bern, 26 Nov (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Switzerland, has described his discussions with Swiss President Pierre Aubert and his foreign minister as fruitful. Ghali said that the discussions dealt with the current problems, particularly the Lebanese problem in light of the Lebanese dialogue which was recently held in Geneva and in which the Swiss president participated by inaugurating it. The discussions also dealt with the Palestinian question and Europe's role in establishing peace in the Middle East. Dr Ghali said this at a news conference which he held in Bern and which was attended by the representatives of Swiss television and international correspondents.

Dr Ghali then began the news conference by answering reporters' questions. Asked about the role which Egypt and France played in the release of the Palestinian detainees and the Israeli prisoners, he said that this comes within the framework of secret diplomacy. However, he praised the role played by the International Red Cross, which was an important factor in the release of the prisoners.

Answering another question on whether the release represents a reciprocal recognition by the PLO and Israel, Dr Ghali said: This is what Egypt has always been advocating and Egypt hopes that the mutual recognition would help toreach the start of the path leading to a just and comprehensive peace which we seek. Egypt supports and encourages coexistence and dialogue between the PLO and Israel.

Dr Ghali called on the United States to adopt a neutral stand when dealing with the Arab world and Israel and affirmed that neutrality will enable it to play the role of a full partner in the peace process. Dr Ghali warned that consideration must not only be given to the U.S. actions in Israel's favor but that we are also dutybound to take into consideration what the United States has done for the Arabs: The United States has offered the Reagan initiative for bringing peace to the Middle East and for solving the Palestinian problem and last year, during the siege of Beirut, the United States participated in the efforts to secure the depar-

ture of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from Lebanon.

Dr Ghali reaffirmed that the United States has an important role in the Middle East saying that it is necessary to bolster this role for the sake of peace and the right of the Palestinian people to determine their future. Answering another question on the role of the Soviet Union in establishing peace in the Middle East, Dr Ghali said: The Soviet Union has a very important role because the Middle East crisis has characteristics of the cold war. The cold war can only end through contacts between the two superpowers. He emphasized that the Soviet Union can play an important role in the Middle East through the United Nations, as pointed out in the Camp David agreements.

Asked if Egypt has submitted definite demands to Europe regarding the Middle East peace process, Dr Ghali said: We need the friendship and efforts of all states to achieve a solution to the Middle East crisis. The Arab states want Europe to participate in solving this crisis because Europe's security is linked with the security of the Middle East and because Europe has a more positive role to play. It is up to Europe to choose the most appropriate methods.

Dr. Butrus Ghali gave an example of the role that Europe could play in achieving peace in the Middle East by possibly contacting Israeli public opinion and the Palestinians and strengthening the moderate trend in Israel. Dr Ghali expressed his belief that settlement will materialize only through dialogue between Israel, the Palestinians, and the Arabs. Dr Butrus Ghali answered a question about his opinion of the new Israeli Government and whether there were any chances for dialogue with it, and said, "There were contacts with the opposition Israeli Labour Party, and an Egyptian mission went in May 1982 to Israel and a plan for dialogue between the Israeli Labour Party and the Egyptian National Democratic Party was prepared, however Israel's aggression on Lebanon occured after that." Dr Ghali went on to say that Egypt is trying to maintain the dialogue, pointing out that recently Yiczhak Modai, the Israeli minister of energy was in Egypt, the former Defense Minister Chaim Weismann also came to Egypt, and finally the director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry was there.

Dr Ghali noted that Egypt on her part is trying to maintain the dialogue with Israel. He stressed the importance of maintaining this dialogue because through it peace could be maintained. He also said that Egypt believes that the Arabs should contribute to the dialogue.

Dr Ghali expressed Egypt's hope that the Palestinians would be able to solve their differences, stressing that their division threatens the Palestinian issue. He pointed out that Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, epitomizes the aspirations of the Palestinian people in gaining their homeland. Dr Ghali was answering a question about Egypt's viewpoint on the outcome of theTripoli battle. Answering another question about the Syrian role in this respect, Dr Ghali said that Egypt encourages negotiations between Lebanon and Syria as well as dialogue between the PLO and Syria. Through the contacts and dialogue between Lebanon and Syria, he said, a solution could be reached. Dr Butrus Ghali replied to a question about what should be done to revive the autonomy talks which have foundered and he said that if the Palestinians agreed with the Jordanians, Egypt is prepared to resume negotiations with Israel, noting that Egypt encourages Jordan and the PLO to resume the talks between them.

In reply to another question about whether or not Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanon is a condition for the resumption of normal relations with Egypt, Dr Butrus Ghali said that Egypt did not only make withdrawal a condition, but also demands that Israel change its policy in the area toward the Palestinians and that it should work for creating a favorable atmosphere in the area. Only then would it be possible to restore the dialogue with Israel, return the Egyptian ambassador, and hold direct negotiations for comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

In reply to a question about the recent visit of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to Washington, Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed that the president's visit to Washington was successful and extremely fruitful. At the end of his press conference, Dr Butrus Ghali answered a number of questions which dealt with the Chad situation, Egyptian-Arab relations, and Egypt's African policy. In regards to Chad he stressed the possibility of a reconciliation between Hissein Habre, Chad's president, and Goukouni Oueddei. He said that Egypt is working to solve the problem through its permament contact with the OAU and that Egypt condemns Libyan intervention in Chad.

About Egyptian-Arab relations and the date for the return of Egypt to the Arabs or the return of the Arabs to Egypt, he said that there are continuous contacts between Egypt and most Arab states. Also some visits will take place in the future, noting that contacts had already been made at the leaders level at the nonaligned conference which was held in New Delhi in May. Also, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with some Arab leaders in New York recently. Concerning Egypt's African policy Dr Butrus Ghali explained that Egypt has always been calling for solving African disputes peacefully and within the African framework and through dialogue. Dr Butrus Ghali arrived in Geneva last Thursday on a 4-day visit to Switzerland. He is expected to leave for East Berlin tomorrow, Sunday, on a similar visit to the GDR.

Soviet Trade Ministry Official Arrives in Cairo

NC260722 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0707 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text]Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA) — Grishin, Soviet deputy minister of foreign trade, arrived in Cairo from Moscow this morning, heading a trade delegation on a 1-week visit to Egypt. During the visit, the Soviet delegation will hold talks with senior officials at the Ministry of Economy and will sign a protocol for trade cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union.

Cypriot Minister Arrives in Cairo 26 Nov

NC261524 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA) — Konstandinos Mikhailidhis, the Cypriot minister to the president, arrived in Cairo from New Delhi this afternoon, for a 1-day visit to Egypt. The minister was

welcomed at Cairo Airport by Ambassador Munir Halim of the West European Department of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and members of the office in charge of Cyprus interests. The Egyptian official attended the commonwealth group's meetings in New Delhi.

Information Minister Returns From Sudan

NC251321 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Excerpt] State Minister for Information Safwat ash-Sharif and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this morning from Sudan following a 2-day visit. The visit came within the framework of Egyptian-Sudanese integration in the information field.

Consultative Council Endorses Committee Statement

NC262041 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] The Consultative Council today endorsed the statement adopted by the Arab, Foreign, and National Security Affairs Committee at its first meeting in the new parliamentary session. The statement urged the Palestinian brothers to stop the bloodshed between them in order to safeguard the unity of the Lebanese people and to reach a national reconciliation among thevarious Lebanese factions. The statement advises Israel to honor its agreement, to withdraw from Lebanon immediately, and to stop the building of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Thestatement urges the international community to exert further efforts to end the Iranian-Iraqi war. The statement praises thewise policy pursued by President Husni Mubarak in tackling Arab and foreign issues.

Consultative Council Group on Palestine Issues

NC271454 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] The Consultative Council's Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee has affirmed that the Egyptian people support the Palestinian people's struggle and their just right to determine their future on their national soil. In a statement it issued today on the occasion of the world day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, the committee urged the United Nations and all peace-loving forces to support the Palestinian people's struggle to attain their just and legitimate rights. The committee requested the great powers to exert utmost pressure possible on Israel to compel it to abide by international legitimacy, acknowledge the Palestinian people's rights, and withdraw from all the occupied Arab territory. The committee requested the PLO to intensify its political efforts to confront the plans aiming at the liquidation of the Palestinian question. It urged Israel to act toward creating an atmosphere of confidence by withdrawing from Lebanon and the occupied Arab territory, stopping the aggressive acts, and halting the building of settlements.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,291

JN251645 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1612 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA) — Iraq announced today that 39 Iranians were killed, and 2 vehicles, 2 hardware stockpiles, 1 observation post, and 1 infantry position were destroyed during the Iraqi forces' operations against the Iranian enemy forces at the front last night and today. Communique No 1,291 issued tonight by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command said that the Iraqi forces also destroyed one excavator, two machineguns, and one infantry position, killing those manning it. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,291 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave Armed Forces are continuing their fight against the Iranian aggressors, transforming the dreams of the suspect Khomeyniite clique into bitter defeats. The results of the war operations for last night and today are as follows:

1. Using artillery, our forward units opened fire on a number of enemy vehcles and troop concentrations opposite their positions in the northern sector of the front killing 38 and wounding others. Our forces also destroyed two vehicles, two hardware stockpiles, and one observation post. In other areas of the same sector, our forces found a quantity of serviceable weapons and various kinds of military equipment.

2. Our combat patrol units raided enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our forward units east of Basra inflicting losses in men and material. In another place in the same area, our forces destroyed one excavator and a medium machinegun emplacement.

3. One person was killed and two machineguns were destroyed in the central sector of the front.

4. One infantry position was destroyed and those manning it were killed in the Maysan sector.

5. The mean enemy yesterday and today shelled Mandali and the Sayyid Sadiq township and their environs with artillery. The savage shelling resulted in the martyrdom of a child in Sayyid Sadiq.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 November 1983

Communique No 1,292

JN261720 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,292 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 26 November 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Armed Forces continued their brave activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the suspect and rancorous Khomeyniite regime. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our combat patrols carried out an operation against some enemy troops opposite one of our forward unit's positions east of Basra. It opened fire on them and managed to chase them and force them to flee after killing five of them, wounding others, and capturing a quantity of serviceable hardware and military equipment. Elsewhere in the same sector, our forward units opened fire on the enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our positions, killing or wounding several enemy troops. The enemy was seen trying to evacuate these positions.

2. Our bold helicopter gunships today attacked enemy positions and troop concentrations in the areas opposite our forward units' positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, inflicting losses in both personnel and vehicles. All our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our forward units engaged the enemy positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles in the areas opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing one, destroying one vehicle bloaded with personnel and one machinegun, and hitting one 106-mm gun.

4. One infantry position was destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

5. Today the vile Khomeyniite clique shelled Mandali and its environs with artillery, wounding three men, two children, and one woman, and demolishing five houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 November 1983

Communique No 1,293

JN271747 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,293 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 27 November 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The units of our valiant Armed Forces continue their triumphant activities in the operational theaters against the forces of the covetous enemy. The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A force belonging to one of our forward units carried out a raid against enemy positions opposite our units positions east of Basra, pounded them with all types of weapons, and inflicted on the enemy losses in life and equipment. One of our combat patrols also pounded an enemy troop concentration inflicting some losses among enemy ranks. Cries for help were heard from the enemy's positions.

2. A force belonging to one of our forward units pounded an enemy observation post and an infantry position in the Maysan

sector, destroying them completely and killing their occupants.

3. Our forward units shelled several enemy targets opposite their positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits, and destroying one vehicle. Our combat patrols also found several weapons, military hardware, and equipment of various types the enemy had left behind in the mentioned sector in previous battles.

4. Enemy elements were sighted opposite one of forward units' positions in the central sector of the battlefield. Our forces pounded them with all types of weapons, killing one and destroying one observation post whose occupants were hit.

5. The unjust Khomeyniite clique today shelled Mandali and Ash-Shihabi and their suburbs, damaging several civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 November 1983

Iraq Denies Explosions Occurred in Baghdad 27 Nov

JN271755 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA) — An official source here this evening denied the claims by an agent organization, an agent of the Iranian regime, that it had planned for [Tadbir] explosions in Baghdad today.

In a statement to INA this evening, the source stressed that no incidents of this sort took place in Baghdad today. The source emphasized that these claims express the impossible wish of harming Iraq's determination and its insistence on decisively confronting any aggression against the security of its sons and the safety of its territory.

USSR's Ryabov in Baghdad To Confer With Officials

JN221010 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0756 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA) — [Yakov Petrovich] Ryabov, CPSU Central Committee member and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, arrived in Baghdad last night to lead his country's delegation to the permanent Iraqi-Soviet joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation which will meet in Baghdad later today. In a statement, Ryabov said the committee will discuss the means of promoting cooperation between the two friendly countries in the various fields, and will sign a technical and economic cooperation agreement.

Ramadan Receives Ryabov

JN271233 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met today with Ryabov, CPSU Central Committee member and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and his delegation who are now visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations, and means of expanding and bolstering them in all spheres. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the development of cooperation between Iraq and the USSR.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Ryabov

JN271650 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at noon today received Yakov Petrovich Ryabov, CPSU Central Committee member and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

The two sides discussed the advanced relations which exist between Iraq and the USSR and the situation in the region. They also discussed how to follow up the results of the visit by Tariq 'Aziz to the USSR last week.

The meeting was attended by the USSR ambassador in Baghdad.

Oil Minister Meets Ryabov

JN281152 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA) — Qasim Ahmad Taqi, Iraqi oil minister, met with Ryabov, CPSU Central Committee member and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, here this morning. The two sides reviewed relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union in the oil fields and ways of consolidating them in the service of the two friendly countries' common interests.

Iraq, USSR Sign Energy Cooperation Protocol

JN260815 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] In Moscow today, Iraq and the USSR signed a joint energy cooperation protocol for 1984. The protocol was signed by Iraq's chairman of the general electricity authority and the USSR's deputy minister of electricity and energy at the end of the latest session of meetings held by the Iraqi-Soviet energy cooperation subcommittee.

During this session, the subcommittee discussed the progress of the cooperation agreements the two countries signed to develop energy sources in Iraq. The two sides also discussed the scope for expanding Iraqi-Soviet cooperation in the economic field in general.

Italian President Visits 26-28 Nov

Husayn Receives Pertini

JN261653 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur received and welcomed Italian President Alessandro Pertini at An-Nadwah Palace this evening. His Majesty King Husayn stressed the importance of this visit for promoting relations of joint friendship and cooperation between the Jordanian and Italian peoples. Italian President Alessandro Pertini arrived in Amman this afternoon on a 3-day official visit to Jordan. His Majesty King Husayn was at the head of those who received him.

The Italian president is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Minister of Foreign Affairs Giulio Andreotti, the Foreign Ministry secretary general, the presidential office secretary general, and a number of senior officials.

Al-Qasim Confers With Andreotti

JN261944 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim received in his office this evening Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Giulio Andreotti, who is currently visiting Jordan as a member of the delegation accompanying Italian President Alessandro Pertini. The two ministers exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual concern and the means to promote bilateral relations.

Al-Qasim affirmed Jordan's eagerness to bolster ties of cooperation with Italy in the various economic, industrial, commercial, and cultural fields for the welfare of the two friendly countries and peoples. He also explained Jordan's position that calls for finding a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem, based on the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and for preserving the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The two ministers also stressed the importance of continuing international endeavors to find solutions to the volatile situations in the region such as the situation in Lebanon and the Iraqi-Iranian dispute.

The meeting was also attended by a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Italian ambassador in Amman, and a number of senior Italian Foreign Ministry officials.

Husayn 26 November Banquet Speech

JN270929 Amman Television Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Speech by King Husayn at a 26 November dinner banquet in honor of Italian President Alessandro Pertini in Amman — videotaped]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your Excellency, great friend Alessandro Pertini, President of the Italian Republic. I am pleased to welcome Your Excellency and the Italian delegation in my own name and on behalf of the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Your visit to our country, which is the first by an Italian president, is a great event that grants us the opportunity to express our respect, love, and appreciation for you as a leader who occupies a high place in the annals of the Italian people's struggle to entrench the principles of freedom, patriotism, and democracy. It is also an opportunity for us to stress our deep desire to strengthen the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between Italy and Jordan, and the profound historical and cultural ties and joint interest that bind our two countries.

Your Excellency. This Arab region in which we live, has long been suffering many kinds of injustice as a result of the repeated violations of international norms and agreements, and because of its coveted geographic position and its political developments that have been subject to exploitation. Since World War I, the Palestinian people have been looking for justice, aspiring to exercise their right of self-determination and of establishing their state on their soil in Palestine. However, these people have always been denied these natural rights. This arbitrary denial climaxed in 1967 when the Israelis occupied the whole of Palestine. This denial cannot be interpreted or justified as a sound Israeli response to the Israeli concept of self-defense or national security requirements. The Israeli concept cannot be used to justify claims of sovereignty over the territory of others. It cannot justify the illegal occupation of territories and the expulsion of people through various means, and the denial of th existence of these people and their rights in their homeland.

Great friend. We have always welcomed the two basic principles which we believed would show the clear path before us; namely, justice for peoples and security for states. We have also welcomed the various international resolutions and all initiatives which endeavored to realize these two principles with sincerity and understanding. Foremost of these initiatives is the 10-country European Community declaration as expressed by repeated statements at various levels in these countries. We have always believed in the importance of a comprensive, positive role by the international community and of all parties concerned with realizing a just, comprehensive peace and solving the essential issues that remain unsolved. This peace must be based on preserving the identity and rights of the Palestinians. It should not be a means of deceiving them into submitting to the faits accomplis which were created by the military occupation and to the de facto realities which it has imposed. The international community's role must include a number of principles that would lead to a working program which would ensure Palestinian self-determination from the political, economic, and social viewpoints. We must differentiate between guarantees that Israel's friends give for its material support, and the guarantees which are a means of supporting Israel's policy of occupation and expansion — policies which Israel practices so as to control the Arabs who are under occupation in Jerusalem, the rest of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and in the Golan Heights. The material support for the state of Israel must not be intended for making available funds and means to support its policy of occupation, settlement, and expansion.

Your Excellency. We were among the first sides to stress the need for a speedy solution for these fateful issues and for not waiting

and relying on the time element. We always pointed out the seriousness of complacency in the search for a comprehensive peace regardless of the causes of this complacency. Subsequent events affirmed the points we had raised. The just, comprehensive solution for the Palestinian cause — a solution that guarantees security and justice for the peoples in the region — will continue to be the most urgent issue. The Palestinian cause will remain the crux of the conflict the cause of instability in this region.

Although the Lebanese issue currently occupies a prominent place, and although the Iranian-Iraqi war and the fears concerning Gulf security must share a great part of our concern, these issues are closely connected with the basic issue; namely, the Palestinian problem. These issues must, of necessity, lead the Arab people to link peace with security in their endeavors to safeguard their identity.

Your Excellency. Allow me to conclude my speech by expressing my deep hope in the great role which your government and nation, in cooperation with the European Community, can play in establishing the principles of right and justice. You personally can participate in leading this role. This is in view of our belief in the importance of dialogue among peoples and cultures, provided this dialogue is based on the correct knowledge of the true positions and issues, on sincwerity of approach in solving problems, and freedom from the tendencies of hegemony and domination over peoples. The cultures of our two great nations, the Arab and Italian nations, will provide us with great opportunities for the good of these two nations and humanity at large.

Your Excellency. I express to you my sincerest wishes of good health and happiness. I wish you a happy stay in our country. I wish you further success in realizing progress and prosperity for your nation. We look forward with confidence to a prosperous future where just peace, understanding among peoples, and cooperation among the human family will prevail so as to engusre a better life for all and increase the happiness of mankind.

Peace and the blessings of God be upon you.

Pertini 26 November Banquet Speech

JN271111 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Nov 83 p 17

[Speech by Italian President Alessandro Pertini at a banquet held in his honor in Amman on 26 November]

[Text] Your Majesty the king. I am both happy and honored to find myself for the first time in the land which is filled with beauty. The persistent struggle by the Hashemite family over the past 60 years to resurrect and free this country and to uphold the cause of the great family of Arab peoples in now being revitalized in the present upheaval of industrious people who have, under your leadership, realized important aims in economic and social progress. Recently, Italy has sympathetically followed Jordan's great efforts to accelerate its development amid the region's wars which forced the country to give important concessions, offer great sacrifices, and lose many lives. We appreciate Jordan's policy during the recent conflicts — a policy which has combined firmness with moderation.

Due to your prestigeous position inside and outside the Arab world, your country has become a factor of equilibrium and stability in the region and a main party among the parties to the courageous, difficult dialogue which aims at restoring peace to the region's territories.

Your Majesty. I also find it a cause of satisfaction to observe again the atmosphere of deep friendship and cooperation which permeates and motivates our two countries' traditional relations. I would like to affirm to you that we attach special importance to our bilateral relations which are bolstered by historical relations, cultural heritage, and human and spiritual closeness.

In all the Mediterranean countries, we plant the olive tree whcih is a symbol of peace. In Jordan, as well as in Italy, this tree constitutes a significant part in the natural scenery. However, the olive tree roots go into the earth faster than peace enters the hearts of men. This part of the Middle East has for years been witnessing tremors of violence that are sometimes transformed into armed uprisings with all the destruction and the suffering that follows. Facts have proven that the accumulation and continuation of serious, unsolved problems for dozens of years will not enable us to reach a constructive settlement in this atmosphere of conflicts.

I believe that the conflict which is shaking this important region will only be settled by dialogue and through negotiations in which all parties concerned will participate in a spirit open for rapprochment. There is a right which we cannot rule out; namely, the right of security for all states. Nobody should feel that he is unwanted. But there is also the right of those who have not had a homeland so far, to have a homeland: A homeland for those who were driven from their homeland and were forced to keep this homeland in their minds and hearts; and a homeland for those who were forced to live without enjoying their full rights, foremost being the right to free self-determination.

Italy firmly supports these political stands, alone and in its capacity as an active worker in the political moves of the 10 European Community states — moves which resulted in the Venice declaration. We consider this declaration to be an advanced political stand which we regard as suitable, particularly with the amendments that followed it.

Your Majesty, the work in which both of our countries are taking part within the context of their responsibilities is the contribution to the restoration of peace to the Middle East.

Lebanon's tragic events have prompted Italy to remain committed to the restoration of freedom, sovereignty, and national accord to that disturbed country, which has been subjected to a merciless invasion. The massacre of innocent people in such an impudent and coldblooded manner in Sabra and Shatila remains a gruesome memory and an atrocity which will never be eradicated from our souls. It will remain a curse on those who were behind it. Our way of feeling and working is profoundly different. This is why the Lebanese people have completely understood the spirit that motivates our mission. Our military forces in Lebanon arepeace-keeping forces. We will not allow them to turn into war forces.

Your Majesty, I have recently travelled to that sorrowful land and saw how our soldiers are liked. They are liked for their humanitarianism. They are always ready to get closer to the inhabitants with interest and kindness. The Italian contingent is led by that brave and clever commander General Angoni. The general has adopted an 8-year old Lebanese boy who has learned the Italian language and with whom I immediately became friends. I visited the Italian camp in Beirut, that colorful plae which has now become " ghost city due to the damage it has sustained from the severe air raids. That innocent child who immediately felt that he was a friend to me was a living expression of the sympathy and cordiality which the Lebanese people harbor for the Italian soldiers. I repeat, Your Majesty, that we went to Lebanon for the sake of peace. We carry peace to Lebanon and intend to work only for peace.

In the month of September of last year important initiatives emerged for a negotiated settlement of the Middle East problems. First, there were the proposals which were made by President Reagan and then came the Fes summit declaration. Both initiatives envisaged what they considered was a suitable basis for a future political settlement, despite the difference in their approaches and the difficulties which emerged at that time.

Your Majesty, for peace to be real, firm, and fruitful, it must be based on justice. There must be an end to the occupation of other peoples' lands. There must be a solution to the problems which are linked to the stability and peace sought by everyone in the Middle East. Foremost of these is the problem of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people, who have also undergone great sufferings in the past few weeks, must be enabled to exercise their right to self-determintion. The Israeli people, who have found feelings of friendship in Italy, have secured a land and a homeland after centuries of persecution.

Today, the Palestinian people must also have the right to a land and a homeland. But if the Palestinians want their aspiration to turn into a reality, they must first restore their internal unity. Personal conflicts and rivalries are the main enemy of their independence. They will not have a homeland if they remain divided and if they continue to fight each other. Let their internal feuds end and let them come forth united before the free world and they will see their dreams fulfilled. Finally and as a crowning of a new firm and just settlement of the problems of the Middle East concerning the territories, we cannot but hope also that the city of Jerusalem, which is sacred to all the three heavenly religions, will remain a factor of unification rather than conflict among nations. We hope that Jerusalem will return as before a place of congregation and a city of peace. There are other tensions afflicting this region is addition to the tragedies of the Palestinian people.

I have spoken about Lebanon. But when we look toward the Gulf, we see the continuation of another tragic conflict between Iraq and Iran — a conflict for which both countries are paying high political price and in terms of material and human losses. This conflict will have serous results that are difficult to predict. We hope that this dispute will be solved as soon as possible through negotiations. Your Majesty. For a long time, Italy has been working to affirm peace, reconciliation, and justice. We are pained to find that these aims have not yet been realized in the Middle East. At times we feel that these aims are growing more distant. However, I hope, and I am confident, that this Arab land and the wisdom of these peoples, which have extended important contributions to the progress of humanity, will uphold peace to overcome all obstacles no matter how great or persistent they might be. In this part of the world writing began. Men built the oldest temples, invented numerals, and used the first plow. Here man for the first time wondered about his destiny.

Again, man can make his own destiny here even if this costs him more toil and suffering. An olive tree can live many years. It sticks to the earth and does not grow very quickly. It grows very slowly but in the end it will bear fruit for those who persevere. I hope, and I am confident, that the time has come for those who worked in pursuit of peace to reap the fruit of their hard work in this land. The light of this peace will cause the sun, which daily moves from these lands to our land, to shine more brilliantly. This is my heartfelt prayer which I present to Jordan on behalf of Italy. This prayer is coupled with our wishes for success in your mission which your majesty is carrying out in the interest of your people, in the interest of peace, and to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

Indeed Your Majesty, we should work for the promotion of peace. if we imagine the worst; namely, the outbreak of a third world war, then it will be the last war because humanity will perish forever. Had the peoples of the world been able to express their desire, they would have opted for peace because they all believe that they are brothers, sharing the same destiny. Either they live in pride and dignity or they will perish in a nuclear holocaust.

Your Majesty. At the presidential palace each moring I receive students from all over Italy. I receive about 600 students a day. During the past 5 and 1/2 years, I have received 160,000 students. I do not address them but invite them to ask questions. I always exchange ideas with them. The following question is always repeated: Will war disturb our future. This is what worries our youth. Not only the youth of my country but the youth of the world. Our answer must be: We must abolish nuclear weapons. We must reach a state of complete disarmament. We must subject our armaments to surveillance if we want youth and humanity to see a bright future and to be secure. That is, if we want this life to triumph over death — a horrible nuclear death. I know that the world will say that I am deluded. But we know that yesterday's dreams have been transformed into facts. In any case, I do not care about criticism. As long as I live, I will fight for peace and for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The great funds that are being wasted on manufacturing weapons to destroy humanity must be pooled to fight hunger in the world. Now, as I talk to you, millions of innocent people are dying of starvation. Their death weighs heavily on the conscience of every statesman and on my conscience too. The dark horizons will spread in the world unless they are overcome. They must be overcome through man's determination.

I am confident that all this will be realized. On this happy note and in this spirit, I raise a toast to Your Majesty's health, to her majesty the queen, and to the prosperity of the friendly Jordanian people.

Husayn, Pertini 27 Nov Talks

JN271718 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Amman, 27 Nov (PETRA) — The Jordanian side led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Italian side led by President Alessandro Pertini held a 3-hour meeting at the Royal Hashemite Court at 1030 today. During the meeting, his majesty reviewed the historical dimensions and the current situation in the Palestine question. He explained the injustice from which the Palestinian people suffer and are still suffering as a result of Israel's occupation of their homeland, its expulsion of the Palestinians from their land, its denial of their legitimate national rights, its continued occupation of the Palestinian and Arab land, and the changes in its demographic nature and features of civilization as well as the implementation of the settlement policy in it.

His majesty also explained the peace efforts that were exerted to bring about a just and comprehensive settlement in the region. He explained the principles of the Arab trend toward peace that were crystalized through the Arab peace plan that was approved by the Arab summit conference in Fes on the basis of the principles of Security Council Resolution No 242 and the UN General Assembly resolutions; resolutions preventing the forcible seizure of other people's land and calling for a comprhensive Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in June 1967, and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination, to determine their future on their national soil, and realizing justice for the region's peoples and security for its states.

His majesty also reviewed the grave situation in the Lebanese territories which resulted from the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, stressing the need for an Israeli withdrawal from them and the maintenance of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence as well as the unity of its land and people. He also explained the dangers that resulted from the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war and Iran's rejection of all the initaitives concerning the ending of the war, which would bring about amity and good neighborliness with Iraq.

His majesty also concentrated on the important role of Italy and the European countries in bringing about security, stability, and peace in the Middle East, considering the close, existing cultural, security, georgraphical, and economic ties between Europe and the Arab world. He also affirmed Jordan's concern for strengthening and developing relations of joint friendship and cooperation between Jordan and Italy in all fields.

The Italian president expressed his deep thanks to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government for their hospitality and the warm feelings with which he was received. He also expressed his pride in the existing close friendship between the Jordanian and Italian peoples and praised his majesty's concern about Middle East security and independence and the efforts that his majesty exerts to realize a comprehensive, lasting, and just settlement in the region. He stressed his government's belief in the need for establishing peace on the basis of ending occupation of others' lands, and enabling the Palestinian people to practice their legitimate role in self- determination.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Prince Muhammad; Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Royal Hashemite Court Chief Ahmad al-Lawzi; Court Minister 'Amir Khammash; Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim; and Chairman of the National Planning Council Hanna 'Awdah. On the Italian side, the meeting was attended by Giulio Andreotti, minister of foreign affairs; the Foreign Ministry secretary general; the presidential office secretary general; and the members of the accompanying delegation.

Cooperation Memorandum Signed

JN280929 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Nov 83 pp 1, 19

[Text] Amman — PETRA — A memorandum of understanding on economic and technical cooperation between the Jordanian and Italian Governments was signed at the National Planning Council [NPC] yesterday afternoon on the occasion of Italian president's current visit to Jordan. The memorandum includes giving $10 million in technical assistance to Jordan to finance Jordanian development projects in the fields of agriculture, water, health, education, energy, and natural resources. This is in addition to the $16 million previously allocated to finance the projects of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station, the center for examining high tension insulators for Jordan Electricity Authority in cooperation with the Italian (?Inel) Company, a fruit tree nursery, and the Ministry of Education printing press. The memorandum provides for presenting easy loans to Jordan in the amount of $50 million, in addition to commercial loans guaranteed by the Italian Government in order to finance projects in agriculture, water, education, and any other projects on which the two sides agree.

The memorandum was signed on the Jordanian side NPC President Dr Hanna 'Awdah, and on the Italian side by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. The Italian ambassador in Amman and a number of concerned officials in the two countries attended the signing ceremony.

Andreotti Leaves 27 Nov

JN271933 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Giulio Andreotti left Amman this afternoon. He was seen off at Amman civil airport by Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

President al-Jumayyil Leaves for Rome, U.S.
NC271412 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil left Beirut at 1500 today for Rome leading an official delegation en route to the United States. President al-Jumayyil is due to meet with Pope John Paul II tomorrow.

Al-Jumayyil Delegation to Washington Named
NC271734 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] President al-Jumayyil will leave Rome this coming Wednesday for Washington. He will be joined by an official delegation composed of Dr Amin al-Hafiz, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Deputy Dr 'Ali al-Khalil, member of the independent parliamentary bloc; Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni; and several advisers; in addition to Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim who is presently in Italy. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has reviewed the current developments with Deputy al-Khalil, member of the presidential delegation to the United States.

RFL on Al-Jumayyil Visit to U.S., Italy, UK
NC251922 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] While during the morning and afternoon the military situation was on the whole quiet in the mountain and southern suburbs and comparatively so in Tripoli, there were two items of political news. The first is the announcement of the coming visit of President Amin al-Jumayyil to Rome; the second is the agreement reached in Damascus between the Saudi and Syrian foreign ministers about an end to the current fighting in Tripoli. The president of the Lebanese Republic will arrive in Rome on Sunday [27 Nov] on a 3-day visit, after which he will leave for Washington on Wednesday. Diplomatic sources, in announcing this, say that on Monday President al-Jumayyil will see Pope John Paul and Secretary of State Cardinal Cassarolli on Tuesday. He will meet President Alessandro Pertini of Italy, who by then will have returned from his official visit to Jordan, and also his prime minister Bettino Craxi.

Press reports reveal that President al-Jumayyil is also to visit London and see Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for talks centered on the situation in Lebanon.

In Washington, on 3 December, President al-Jumayyil will meet President Ronald Reagan for summit talks. Before this meeting, President Reagan is to receive detailed reports from his special envoy to the Middle East, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, on the outcome of his talks in certain Middle Eastern capitals. It is [words indistinct] that the meeting between the two presidents comes after the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens to Washington for talks expected to center on strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States. Informed sources reveal that the brief for the U.S.-Lebanese talks will cover the following points: The American committment to get the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon; Washington's attitude toward the Multinational Force; Lebanon's demand for a reinforcement to the force's role; the supply of necessary equipment for the Lebanese Army; the outcome of the Geneva conference; and finally, economic cooperation between Lebanon and the United States.

Al-Wazzan on U.S.-Lebanese Summit Talks
NC261751 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] In a statement he made today, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan discussed the 17 May agreement and the forthcoming Lebanese-U.S. discussions. Asked to comment on the forthcoming Lebanese-U.S. discussions, the prime minister said: Lebanon does not demand a solution to the 17 May agreement. It demands the liberation of its territory and the elimination of the Israeli occupation. The 17 May agreement is nothing but a way to ensure the Israeli withdrawal. When we discovered that this way does not lead to this objective for more than one reason, we refrained from ratifying the agreement and from continuing the other measures it stipulates. We considered the agreement as virtually frozen. I have previously declared that I personally told this to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi long ago.

Asked if this expresses a stance, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: I speak in the name of the government. If your question goes further to include the regime, then there is no harm in pointing out that this is the regime's stance as well. [Former] Prime Ministers Taqiyy ad-Din as-Sulh, Rashid as-Sulh, and Salim al-Huss had the opportunity to hear from the president —during their meeting with him in my presence — that this is the stance which has been adopted. He told them that I personally am the author of this stance, that I adhere to it, and that the regime adopts it. If Lebanon were forced to follow this path in order to liberate its land, then the freezing of the agreement because of its violation and the failure to achieve the withdrawal will lead to its cancellation.

Regarding the presence of the Israeli liaison office, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: The presence of the Israeli liaison office is one of the signs of occupation. At the same time, this office solves some of the daily problems arising from this occupation. The office has no entity or official status. It must be removed with the elimination of the occupation.

Al-Wazzan, U.S. Delegation Review Situation
NC271904 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan tonight reviewed the situation in Lebanon and in the area with a U.S. delegation which is on an exploratory visit to Lebanon. The delegation is made up of Mr Montgomery, assistant to Mr Howard Baker, the majority leader of the Senate and Mr Bannerman, assistant to Mr Charles Percy, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. They were accompanied by the second secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. At the meeting they reviewed the various current devel-

opments in the area and in Lebanon in particular. The delegation also visited today former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam at his residence.

Foreign Minister Salim Leaves for Damascus

NC260922 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim has left for Damascus on a 1-day visit for talks with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam on the future phase of the Geneva dialogue conference. The visit falls within the context of Lebanon's consultations prior to President Amin al-Jumayyil's visits to Italy, the United States, and Britain.

Returns From Damascus

NC261934 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan tonight met at his home in Tallat al-Khayyat with Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, who returned from Damascus this afternoon after holding discussions with his Syrian counterpart 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Minister Salim briefed Prime Minister al-Wazzan on the results of these discussions which dealt with President al-Jumayyil's European and American tour, as well as with the general situation in Lebanon.

Pierre al-Jumayyil Meets With U.S. Delegation

NC251944 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] The Kata'ib [Phalangist] leader, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, today received an American delegation composed of Mr Bannerman, the assistant of Senator Charles Percy, chairman of the Senate Committee for Foreign Affairs; Mr Montgomery, the assistant of Senator Howard Baker, leader of the Senate majority; Mr Stanton of the Lebanon section of the U.S. State Department; and Mr (Andocan), second secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. They discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and American aid for Lebanon.

During the meeting, Shaykh Pierre insisted that the Lebanese were not asking the United States to put its soldiers into the battle front to free Lebanon but it is only asking for more American support for the Army and for more backing for legality [as heard] for the liberation of Lebanese soil.

AL-HAWADITH Interviews Pierre al-Jumayyil

PM251152 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 25 Nov 83 pp 19-21

[Interview with Phalangist Party leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil by Amin as-Siba'i — date, place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: The question is how convinced are you that the dialogue conference has achieved something? In what field can it be said that the conference has achieved some limited progress?

Answer: As a Lebanese, you, like all the Lebanese people, live through the daily suffering and pain. The Lebanese have been paying the price in blood and loss of security and stability for 10 years not. In the last 4 years the price has been very high. I want to emphasize that what has happened and continues to happen is mainly due to the fact we have had fighting in place of dialogue and coercion in place of understanding.

True, the Arab states, including Lebanon, had fought a war against Israel. Israel won that war and imposed a long truce on everyone except Lebanon, which, to the exclusion of the other Arab states, has had to pay a high price for not honoring that truce. The reasons for Lebanon's failure to observe the truce with Israel are known and they are, naturally, related to the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

It was natural that we should rise against the Israeli occupation and do everything possible to end it. We only had two options: to get Israel out by force or to get it out by negotiation. We appealed to the Arabs, urging them to help us oust Israel from Lebanon. We received no reply. There was silence and evasion. So we had to take the second option. We were forced to seek the liberation of our territory through negotiation, relying on our unity of ranks at home and making a point of informing the Arabs in detail of everything we did. Everyone knows how much contact and consultation we had with the Arab states. Our aim was to keep them informed of the progress of the negotiation. Everyone knows that Syria watched the negotiation process without rejecting it or objecting to it, and that it always assured us of its readiness to leave Lebanon as soon as an agreement ending the Israeli presence was reached.

Question: But Syria did object to the agreement before it was signed.

Answer: That may be true, but Syria was reluctant only 1 or 2 days before the agreement was signed. It did not convey to us an absolute rejection of the agreement nor did it give us a clear warning not to sign it. It merely sent some ambiguous observations.

Question: But the results ran contrary to what was expected.

Answer: We thought that signing the agreement was a solution that would ensure Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon without military or political complications.

Question: Israel has not left and our relations with Syria are bad.

Answer: After the agreement was signed Syria rejected it, launched campaigns against us, boycotted us, and requested the abrogation of the agreement, but it has not specified how Lebanese territory could be freed from Israeli occupation. The agreement, under microscopic scrutiny, may be found to contain certain provisions which should preferably not have been there. We have basically said that the agreement with Israel was not a victory for us but rather a way to action and liberation. We also

said that no mistake equals the mistake or danger of continued Israeli occupation of Lebanon.

In conclusion, I say that Lebanese divisions had weakened Lebanon's position and rightful and just demands and played into the hands of international terrorism. The Lebanese needed a meeting like the Geneva meeting to talk, save the country, and determine its future. I believe that the conference did fulfill a major part of this objective.

Question: Were the results of the conference restricted to the reconciliations made there?

Answer: We reached understanding on many issues in addition to the personal reconciliations, such as Lebanon's identity.

Question: What has been decided regarding the agreement with Israel?

Answer: We actually agreed to the signing of the agreement because we could not find any other way to get Israeli and other non-Lebanese forces out of Lebanon. Israel says that it will not leave Lebanon unless the Syrians and the Palestinians leave too. This has created problems and complications. So, during the dialogue we decided to cooperate with the president of the republic in order to find a suitable way to make Israel withdraw.

Question: Will that lead to the abrogation of the agreement?

Answer: I believe that abrogation of the agreement would give Israel a pretext for occupying the south permanently, while Syria would remain in Al-Biqa' and the north.

Question: So what is the solution?

Answer: The solution is a Syrian and Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. We are willing to work for a comprehensive agreement with Syria based on cooperation, after the withdrawal of its Army.

Question: How?

Answer: Through negotiation. Lebanon has negotiated with the enemy, so is it right for it to stay away from a brother?

Question: But Syria makes dialogue with it conditional on the abrogation of the agreement.

Answer: Why must we cancel the agreement? Syria knows that Israel is against such cancellation and would use it as an excuse for permanent occupation. So why not be objective and seek consultation with our American partner?

Question: Consultation on what?

Answer: On how the Americans can contribute to the search for reasonable settlements with Israel as well as Syria.

It is better for us not to abrogate the agreement because we do not want to lose all possibility of settlement and liberation.

Question: Would you agree to the amendment of the agreement?

Answer: We have no objection to amendment in the right manner.

Question: Minister Khaddam is against this approach.

Answer: I have expressed my views to him very frankly. My impression is that the Syrians do not want the 17 May agreement. I cannot force them to accept my viewpoint. I also cannot get Israel out of Lebanon by force.

Question: Will the dialogue between you and Syria be resumed after Geneva?

Answer: God knows that we never wanted to quarrel with Syria. They are the ones who sought quarrel and war. We happen to believe that Syria is Lebanon's gate to the region and that both countries have the same common interests. We hope that the impression we formed during the dialogue talks, that Syrian-Lebanese rapprochement has been achieved, is correct, and we hope that we can resume the dialogue, which is now more necessary than ever. I believe that Minister Khaddam understood us just as we understood him.

Question: What about the rest of the dialogue?

Answer: We agreed to return to Geneva after the president's return from the United States. Our aim is to find a way to the withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli forces.

Budapest TV Interviews Lebanon's Pierre al-Jumayyil

LD272332 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Interview with Phalangist Party Chairman Pierre al-Jumayyil, by correspondent Alajos Chrudinak "in Lebanon;" time not given; Chrudinak and al-Jumayyil remarks in Arabic fading into superimposed Hungarian translation — recorded]

[Text] [Chrudinak] The Shi'ite leader, Nabih Birri, and others, for example Walid Jublatt, say that they will support the Army only if the Lebanese Army opposes the Phalangist militias in the same way as it opposes the Armed Forces of the progressive national movement. Why do the Army and the government not treat the armed militias equally?

[Al-Jumayyil] I am surprised, very much surprised that you say things like this.

[Chrudinak] I was told this by Nabih Birri himself.

[Al-Jumayyil] I am surprised that Nabih Birri told you such things. It is clear that it is not the Lebanese who are fighting each other. The fight is going on between the Lebanese and the foreign invaders.

You speak about the Army. This is the first time now that we can say that the Lebanese Army is indeed Lebanese.

[Chrudinak] I was told by Walid Junblatt that American warships are firing on Druze positions. This was said by Junblatt himself.

[Al-Jumayyil] Look, I am not interested in what Junblatt is telling you. But I can tell you that the war is not between us and the Druzes, but between us Lebanese and the foreign invaders.

[Chrudinak] Amin al-Jumayyil, president of the republic, your son, is going to meet President Reagan this week. What do you expect of this meeting?

[Al-Jumayyil] In any event we will explain our views on the present situation to him. We will tell him that the country is occupied. Israel has occupied a part of the country. Then we came to an agreement with Israel. This agreement prescribes that Israel must leave.

But this agreement was not invented by us. It was not only us who made the agreement with Israel, but also the United States. We and the United States made the agreement with Israel together. America cannot free itself from the agreement since she signed it together with us.

Iranian Delegation Arrives in Ba'labakk
NC251240 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] An Iranian delegation arrived in Ba'labakk today to discuss the issue of the severance of relations between Lebanon and Iran. It is reported that it has been decided to set up an Iranian center in the area to replace the embassy in Beirut.

Iranian Diplomats Told To Leave in 3 Days
NC251421 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Fu'ad at-Turk, Foreign Ministry secretary general, today received (Mahmud Nurani), Iranian charge d'affaires in Beirut, and discussed with him the Cabinet's decision to sever diplomatic relations with his country.

At-Turk told the charge that he and the diplomats at the Iranian Embassy must leave Lebanese territory within 3 days.

Amal Protests Severing Relations With Iran
NC251918 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] The Amal movement today issued a communique complaining that relations were only suspended with Libya but broken off with Iran.

The Amal communique said that relations should have been broken off with Libya in 1979 when Imam Musa as-Sadr disappeared. Relations, however, should be maintained with Iran, which, according to the communique, was playing a military role against the Zionists.

Iranian Sympathizers Train 'Terrorists'
NC261448 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] It is reported from Al-Biqa' that following the French air raids on their positions in Ba'labakk, the Iranians there began entering the residential quarters and occupied some buildings. The Iranians received two antiaircraft batteries which were unloaded by a plane that transported the bodies of Iranians to Tehran. Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, Khalil 'Abbas Husayn al-Musawi, and Muhammad 'Abbas Husayn al-Musawi are supervising the training of terrorists in Al-Biqa'. The three had participated in the murder of [late press doyen] Riyad Taha and the French ambassador [de Lamar]. It has been learned that Husayn al-Musawi is carrying out his activities in An-Nabi Shit [in Al-Biqa'].

Rocket Hits Beirut Airport 'by Mistake'
NC261327 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] A rocket fell on Beirut International Airport this afternoon hitting the fourth floor of the western wing of the airport building. It has been learned that only material damage was caused. The air traffic has not been affected. Immediate investigation has revealed that the rocket hit the airport building by mistake during exercises in the Ar-Rumul area near the coast.

Mountain Cease-Fire Agreement Not Respected
NC251840 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] The security situation, which was quiet during the day, became unsettled in the evening on the front in the mountain. The Syrians and Junblattites directed shellfire on the Army positions. A cease-fire agreement was arranged at 6:20 to come into effect at 6:30, but it was not respected by the Socialists and their allies. The aggressions against the Army started about 6:00 this evening. Positions in Ra's al-Jabal and Suq al-Gharb came under bombardment from the outskirts of 'Aytat and those on the Kayfun Heights and at Qabr Shmun were shelled from Baysur and Shimlan. Army positions on the 'Aramun heights were shelled from 'Aramun itself. Heavy machinegun fire from 'Ayn Ksur was directed on the Army at Fsiqin. Shells also fell on Wadi Shahrur, Bulaybil, (Qurtay), Bsaba, and Bitshay. There was also an attempt to infiltrate the positions at Ra's al-Jabal which was successfully repelled by the Army. Reports from Dayr al-Qamar said that the convoy going there was looted by the Junblattites, particularly for the medical supplies. Sniper fire was also directed on Dayr al-Qamar from Socialist positions in B'aqlin.

Socialists Violate Cease-Fire Agreement 27 Nov
NC272200 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] The Socialist gunmen violated a second cease-fire agreement tonight when they directed volleys of shells from their

positions in 'Aramun, Ash-Shuwayfat, 'Aytat, Baysur, Shimlan, and 'Alayh toward the Lebanese Army positions in the 'Aramun hills, the Khaldah triangle, Radio Orient, Suq al-Gharb, Kayfun, Qabr Shmun, Dahr al-Wahsh, and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. There have been no reports on loss of life. A short time ago, a shell landed in the periphery of Shatila circle. The shell was fired from the alien positions.

Intelligence Officer Recalled to Syria
NC252136 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] The Syrian command in Damascus this afternoon urgently (?recalled) to Syria Colonel (Wahbah) Kan'an of the intelligence branch in the Al-Biqa'. He left on board a military helicopter. Damascus thus far has not given an explanation for this; however, security quarters believe the recall is connected with President Hafiz al-Asad's health.

Official Sources Criticize Syrian-Saudi Plan
NC261007 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Official sources expressed astonishment today over the plan that Saudi Arabia and Syria worked out concerning a cease-fire agreement in Tripoli. The sources asserted that this act is an infringement on Lebanese sovereignty, noting that the ongoing events in the north have become similar to those taking place in the south, where the Lebanese are suffering from death and eviction, and agreements are being made without the knowledge of the official Lebanese authorities.

Syrian Air Defense Confronts U.S. F-14s
JN261125 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: On 26 November 1983, several U.S. F-14 planes overflew our forces' positions in Lebanon. Our air defense means [wasa'it] confronted them and forced them to return seaward.

Syria Reportedly Accepts 17 May Accord Amendment
NC261722 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim visited Damascus today. He held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The Syrian minister hosted a luncheon in honor of the Lebanese minister. During the luncheon, the two ministers continued their discussions which precede President al-Jumayyil's tour. Minister Salim will accompany the president. It is known that the main subject to be discussed by Presidents al-Jumayyil and Reagan is ways leading to the liberation of the Lebanese territories on the basis of what was decided during the Geneva conference when the 17 May agreement was discussed. Minister Khaddam had attended the conference as an observer. It has been unofficially reiterated that Syria accepts the amendment of some provisions of the 17 May agreement. Syria had earlier insisted on the agreement's cancellation.

VOL: Al-Asad Reportedly To Be Hospitalized Abroad
NC261320 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] It has been learned from diplomatic Arab sources in Damascus that President al-Asad's relatives have contacted Syrian ambassadors in a number of Western countries in preparation for moving President al-Asad to a French or American hospital following developments in the condition of his health. A number of President al-Asad's bodyguards have departed to supervise security measures to be taken in the hospital where al-Asad will be treated. President al-Asad will be carried aboard a hospital aircraft after specifying the place of treatment. We have carried 61230 NG/ANDERSON/CM 26/1324Z NOV

Resistance Men Attack Israeli Post Near Sidon
NC251400 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] In retaliation to the enemy's measures in the south, men from the Lebanese National Resistance carried out a new military operation this morning against an Israeli post in (Bishar Habib ibn Hasan) locality south of Sidon. The resistance men attacked the post with rockets and machineguns and clashed with those manning it for 10 minutes. The occupation authorities subsequently cordoned off the area and cut the roads making it impossible to learn whether there were any casualties among the soldiers at the post.

Israeli Military Movements Reported in South
NC251336 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Observers of Israeli movements in the south note that the Israeli Army has withdrawn its forces and vehicles from Kafr Falus on the main Jazzin road. The Israeli forces have vacated the Al-Hariri installations and Kafr Falus township. Approximately 50 Israeli tracked vehicles and 30 trucks were moving on the road toward Jazzin. There are no details yet about this Israeli step. The Israeli Army has a large concentration near Anan Lake on the same road.

Israelis Dismantle Military Center in South
NC260929 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] In the south, our correspondent has reported that the Israeli forces have dismantled all the tents and installations in the (Amal) center, which was considered the largest military center in the south. It had about 150 tents, which the Israeli forces have now stored in an unfinished factory still under construction on the (Amal) hills. The purpose of this move is not known, but reports said this is part of a plan to regroup the forces and thin out the centers. Meanwhile, security sources reported that following the exchange of prisoners, Israel is following a new

method in dealing with the groups it had established. The first sign of this is the disappearance of Abu Sati', the person in charge of the Shi'ite Army in the south. These sources added that the Israeli forces have disarmed members of the National Guard in some villages, including Kafr Sir village in An-Nabatiyah District, and some villages in the Sidon District. The Israeli forces carried out a wide-scale arrest campaign and detained 20 citizens last night. In Tyre, a security source reported that clashes took place this morning between two local organizations.

Israel Reinforces Positions in Al-Biqa'
NC261005 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Reports from the Al-Biqa' say some 70 Israeli tanks and vehicles have taken up positions on the eastern sector of the frontline. Three truck convoys carrying soldiers and hardware entered the Al-Biqa' area yesterday morning.

Ansar Camp Reportedly Still in Operation
NC261807 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Security sources have said that the Ansar Camp is still in operation. It was reported that several people are still being detained in the camp. They include Jamal Jum'ah from Sidon, Khalid Qansu, Khalil Rihan, Jamal Mishayyif, and Husayn Khurayfi from the An-Nabatiyah District. Reports from the south say that Haydar ad-Dayikh, a leading agent of the occupation forces, today arrested several people who were freed from Ansar Camp.

National Guard Official's Powers Weakened
NC262038 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] According to exclusive information to Radio Free Lebanon,the Israeli forces began to lessen the powers of Abu 'Aridah, the person responsible for the National Guard in Sidon. Our correspondent there reports that differences between the Amal movement and the Higher Shi'ite Council are intensifying and are assuming a special form in the south. This is so particularly after the meeting that was held last Tuesday in deputy Nabih al-Bizri's house — the meeting from which the Amal representative was absent in protest against the attendance of the Higher Shi'ite Council representatives because each of the two sides wants to represent the Shi'ites alone.

Israelis Search for Weapons, Stage Mock Raids
NC280937 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Text] In the south, Israeli forces surrounded the Al-Ijasah quarter in Sidon a short time ago and are now combing the area in a search for weapons. At 0915, Israeli planes staged mock raids over the (Bsayr Jwayl) area in the An-Nabatiyah District and dropped smoke bombs from a low altitude for 30 minutes.

Rashid Karami Interviewed by Radio Monte Carlo
JN252025 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1753 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Interview with former Prime Minister Rashid Karami by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Louis Faris in Damascus and the radio's News Director Antoine Nawfal in the radio studio — carried within the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow." live or recorded]

[Text][Louis Faris] Mr [Former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami, what is your opinion of the agreement announced today in Damascus?

[Rashid Karami] I believe that this agreement fulfills the desires of all sincere Arab citizens who aspire for the PLO's unity. This unity can be achieved through the cease-fire and the prevention of the internecine fighting between the Fatah branch loyal to Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Araft] and the others who belong to the opposition. What is happening has been painful to all of us due to what it has caused — huge losses and dangers. Everyone called for solving the problems within the frameworks of the PLO, particularly Fatah, and through peaceful methods and democratic dialogue. This is in addition to the fact that the people of Tripoli have rejected this internecine fighting and endured its large and tragic consequences. Three quarters of the Tripoli citizens are now displaced in every spot inside and outside Lebanon. They have paid a big price with their own blood and institutions. Hence, the suffering and fear they experienced were great. The articles of this agreement deal with all these problems and issues, and in light of the consultations and since everyone has accepted the agreement announced today by Their Excellencies Khaddam and Al-Faysal, we feel confident that the implementation of the agreement will be smooth in light of the announced intentions. This implementation will certainly achieve the objectives hoped for out of the concern over the common higher national interest.

[Antoine Nawfal] Do you expect Yasir 'Arafat to accept this agreement?

[Karami] I think that the talks were held in the presence of 'Arafat's two representatives, Khalid al-Hasan and Rafiq an-Natshah. I also believe that there were contacts that always accompanied the talks between Syria and Saudi Arabia. Therefore, I believe that Brother Abu 'Ammar will certainly realize and feel that this agreement is for the sake of serving the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Arab interests. I have great hopes that the positive and direct cooperation will serve the common interest.

[Nawfal] Yasir 'Arafat has accepted the initiative you earlier proposed. It was largely identical to this agreement. Why has the initiative not been implemented? Do you think that this agreement will have better luck?

[Karami] When I announced my initiative, I hoped that it would be accepted by everyone. I want to clarify here that Brother Abu 'Ammar was the one who rejected it. In my opinion, if the initiative had been implemented, we could have saved much bloodshed, damage, and devastation that hit us all. But as the French proverb goes, miaux vaut tard que jamais [better late than

never]. As you said, I do not find a big difference between this agreement and what I announced and called for a few weeks ago. At any rate, and in light of the bitter experience we have been living though these days, the pain and suffering that accompanied it on the national Palestinian, Lebanese, and Arab levels, I hope that we will benefit from what happened so we can put an end to this deterioration and to these losses so we can save our energies and efforts to face our common enemies.

[Nawfal] The opponents' radio in Tripoli, which is called Nahr al-Barid Radio, announced a short while ago that the Palestinian opposition rejects the agreement. What is your opinion?

[Karami] I do not think that this agreement should be rejected by any side, because the common interest should take precedence above all. If this or that side believes that this agreement bypasses some of what they want or aspire to, the common interest must still take precedence over anything else because the fate is one and the enemy is one.

[Nawfal] It may be premature to enter into the agreement's details, but the time is limited for you and for Tripoli. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has called for speedy implementation. This requires successive practical steps pertaining to forming the dialogue committee [as heard] and the time and place for its meeting. First, who will be the members of the Coordination Committee?

[Karami] The Coordination Committee must represent Tripoli public opinion, which is directly interested in implementing this agreement as soon as possible. Hence, we will soon direct our efforts to forming this committee which must lay down the plan and draw up arrangements that will lead to implementing the provisions of the agreement. This is because it is us, the people of Tripoli —both the displaced and deported persons —who are concerned. It is not right to burden the Tripoli people with more than they have already taken. Therefore, we want them to return to their city and houses as soon as possible. Hence, we will take the measures we deem necessary and will facilitate the realization of the agreement's aims. The departure of the fighters is the basis for establishing peace, stability, and security in Tripoli so that we may forget this tragic phase and open a new leaf based on love and peace in order for all to work for the good of our country, people, and nation.

[Nawfal] When and where will this committee begin its meetings?

[Karami] In fact, we do not have difficulty or preferences in this regard. What is important is the work. Whenever the work is simpler and more conducive to the cherished aims, we will not have any complications. We have no peculiarities or preferences in choosing any place. There is no difference between our meeting in Damascus or in Tripoli because we just want to be helped in our mission. On this occasion, we must express our thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad and to His Majesty King Fahd for their great efforts to stop this suffering and for preventing a disaster. The Khaddam-Al-Faysal meetings were very good because they produced this agreement. We thank the Nonaligned Movement states, the Gulf states, and all those who showed concern for our problems and helped solve them.

[Nawfal] The fourth article of the agreement stipulates that the Syrian and Saudi Governments will extend the necessary assistance which Rashid Karami, chairman of the Coordination Committee, will require to implement this, meaning the departure of the Palestinian fighters from Tripoli. What is the kind of assistance that you will require from Syria or Saudi Arabia? Will it be a form of military assistance?

[Karami] I do not think that the assistance will be military because this agreement is a declaration of intentions aimed to solve the problems through negotiations and by democratic means. Here I can say that the departure of the fighters will require means of transport.

We hope that through consultations with the parties concerned, we will define and secure these means because this will lead to realizing the required demands.

[Nawfal] On the Lebanese level, how will you act? Will you act in cooperation with the Lebanese National Salvation Front, with the Lebanese state, or with both?

[Karami] In fact, we will explore all avenues to realize the interests of our country and nation. We are cooperating and consulting with all parties concerned.

[Nawfal] The agreement expects the Palestinian fighters to leave. But for where will they leave? For Al-Biqa', or outside Lebanon?

[Karami] The Palestinian fighters who came from outside are supposed to leave for places outside of Lebanon.

[Nawfal] The Damascus agreement gives you the primary role as chairman of the Coordination Committee. At first glance, you seem to be the biggest winner if the agreement is implemented.

However, in view of the current circumstances, it seems that the players have placed the ball in your court. You must now act. How do you view the role and the difficulties that await you. You are called on to act swiftly, particularly concerning the implementation.

[Karami] In fact, I am optimistic concerning the implementation stages of this agreement which have been reached after intensive studies and consultations. Particularly because they are effective, concerned parties will extend all the necessary facilities to this effect.

I consider myself the happiest man because this agreement includes many solutions and proposals which I myself had presented —proposals which serve the interests of the PLO, my city, Tripoli, and my fellow countrymen.

We are happy when we find that the way is open for the peaceful solutions which will end this horrible fighting and its harmful results. I say that I am happy and optimistic. I do not find any difficulty. I am waiting. All will cooperate in order to serve their people and cause.

[Nawfal] Thank you.

Karami on Implementation of PLO Agreement
LD260959 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0803 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus 26 Nov (KUNA) — The former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who heads the coordinating body assigned to the implementation of the provisions of an agreement reached yesterday to end the fighting in Northern Lebanon, said that he who refuses to implement this agreement and to leave Tripoli and its suburbs "is not right." Replying to a question by KUNA about some quarters refusing to withdraw, Karami said: "He who claims this is not right because the negotiations held betwen myself and the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Prince al Sa'ud al-Faysal, and of Syria, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, took place after direct consultations and contacts with the parties concerned." He said that Nimr Salih — Abu Salih — one of the prominent leaders of the opposition in Fatah declared his approval of all the provisions of the agreement during a meeting with him here last night.

He pointed out that in connection with the departure of the Palestinian fighters from Tripoli and its suburbs, "the agreement is frank and clear and demands the departure of all Palestinian fighters with their weapons."

Karami said that "the Palestinians have to decide where they will be going." However he expressed the view that "those who came from abroad must return to the place from which they came; others, they have to choose where they are to go." Regarding the refusal to leave Tripoli, Karami expressed the belief that "there will be no such difficulties or obstacles." He said "whoever assumes this is wrong and may not wish to implement this agreement which is in the Palestinian, Lebanese, Arab, pan-Arab and national interests. I imagine that after everyone has given his approval matters will be simple and will be positively executed to the same degree that the search for this agreement had been positive." Regarding the view of some sides that the safety of the Palestinian camps is the responsibility of the Palestine Liberation Organization he said, "I think that whoever looks through the agreement will find that there is no mention of the camps in Northern Lebanon which would permit one to speculate about them. This is a Palestinian matter and they, without any doubt, will agree among themselves about Palestinian interests." He said that "the respite of 2 weeks called for by the agreement begins from the time the plan and the program for the withdrawal is submitted, and this is what we will be doing and working for in order to draft all the measures and means required in process of completing the withdrawal."

Coordination Committee Group Leaves for Damascus
NC280948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Text] A delegation representing the northern coordination committee led by Tripoli Mayor 'Ashur ad-Dayah left Tripoli for Damascus this morning to meet with [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami there to work out a timetable for the withdrawal of the warring Palestinians from Tripoli and the north in implementation of the Saudi-Syrian agreement.

The delegation comprises representatives of most Tripoli parties and [word indistinct], professional, and social organizations. Representatives of the 24 October movement, the Ba'th party, and the Islamic Unification Movement did not participate in the delegation for reasons described as security reaons.

Sulayman Franjiyah Returns to Zgharta 27 Nov
NC271419 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah returned to Zgharta at 1430 today from Paris via Damascus after attending the national dialogue conference in Geneva. Franjiyah was accorded a popular welcome along the route of his motorcade. Franjiyah yesterday held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and later met with former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami to review the situation in the north and in Lebanon in general.

Shi'ite Leader Stages Sit-In Against Israel
NC251256 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Excerpt] A basic step toward civil resistance in the south was declared today by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, the deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, with the staging of a sit-in at the As-Safa Mosque in Al-'Amiliyah. His eminence announced that the civil resistance will clearly show Israel that its security does not lie in the south but rather in pulling back to within its own borders. Shaykh Shams ad-Din began his sit-in at 0900 today in protest against the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and in denunciation of the Israeli arbitrary measures which isolated the south from the rest of Lebanon. According to Shaykh Shams ad-Din, the sit-in is considered a step towards peaceful civil resistance which is designed to increase international pressure on Israel to stop its actions and to urge world public opinion to support the Lebanese to get rid of this hated occupation.

U.S. Plane Flies Over Syrian Positions in Lebanon

JN271225 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] A military spokesman has reported the following:

At 1018 today, 27 November 1983, a U.S. warplane flew over our forces' positions in northern Al-Matn. Our air defense units confronted it and forced it to return toward the sea.

Reportage on Tripoli Cease-Fire Agreement

Agreement Reportedly Reached

JN251358 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, held a joint news conference today with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. During their meeting with the press, which took place in Damascus at noon, the two foreign ministers asserted that, after a number of meetings and rounds of consultation with former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, and representatives of the conflicting parties in the Palestinian arena, the following has been agreed upon:

A firm and permanent cease-fire and cessation of hostilities.

A commitment to a peaceful solution of internal Palestinian problems through political dialogue in order to safeguard the unity of the PLO.

The departure of all armed Palestinians from areas in and around Tripoli.

The Higher Coordination Committee in Tripoli, under the leadership of Rashid Karami, will supervise the implementation of the cease-fire and the departure of all armed Palestinians — together with their weapons — according to arrangements drawn up by the committee, provided this is accomplished not more than 2 weeks after the announcement of the arrangements laid down by the Higher Coordination Committee with the help of the Syrian and Saudi governments.

Khaddam stressed that the agreement came as a result of the realization — by the governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — of the seriousness involved in any continued fighting among the Palestinian brothers. He noted that it is also a result of the concern shown by the two governments for both the unity and future of the PLO, and for the security and safety of the Lebanese.

Khaddam on 'Arafat's 'Departure'

JN251549 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Excerpts] An agreement has been reached in Damascus on the settlement of the Tripoli question and on the departure of the fighters from the areas in and around the city. This agreement was announced during a joint news conference held in the Syrian capital a short while ago by Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Answering a question as to whether the agreement calls for 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal merely spoke about the provisions of the agreement. However, the Syrian minister ['Abd al-Halim Khaddam] promptly answered: Yes. He — meaning 'Arafat — must leave Tripoli.

ATH-THAWRAH on Syria's Role

JN260807 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "At Step in the Right Direction" *ATH-THAWRAH* says: The agreement announced by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at a joint news conference in Damascus yesterday is a step in the right direction. This is so because the agreement — which deals with a lasting cease-fire in Tripoli, the need to settle Palestinian problems through political dialogue, and the withdrawal of all Palestinian fighters from Tripoli and nearby areas — is supposed to end the shedding of Palestinian blood and pave the way for a political dialogue. This, in turn, is aimed at a peaceful settlement of the differences within the Fatah movement on the basis of a commitment to the [Palestine] National Charter and the resolutions adopted by the Palestinian institutions. It also rests upon protection of the PLO's unity and adherence to its objectives and militant program. It is natural for Palestinians and Arabs to welcome this agreement and to view it as a genuine prelude to the settlement of Fatah's crisis and the blocking of those hostile forces which seek to exploit the Palestinian dispute in order to peddle their suspect schemes both in and outside the region.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: This agreement is a result of the great and incessant Syrian efforts to halt the shedding of Palestinian and Lebanese blood, and to assist in settling differences through positive and brotherly dialogue. This has been acknowledged by all the parties involved. The statements made by the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and India — in which they thanked the Syrian Government for its assistance in attaining positive results — were irrefutable proof of the serious and credible Syrian position on this issue. Syria is as concerned about the Palestinian people and the unity of the PLO as it is about its own people. Syria has demonstrated this in practice and action through the considerable and ongoing sacrifices it makes in defense of Palestine and the cause of the Palestinian people.

ATH-THAWRAH concludes: Syria is always prepared to make additional sacrifices in order to keep the banner of Palestine flying high. At the same time, Syria insists on confronting all conspiracies aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause, as it views this cause as the very core of the Arab nation's struggle.

Lebanon's Salim Arrives, Meets Khaddam

JN261715 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus — Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim arrived here today. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, was on hand to greet the Lebanese minister at Damascus International Airport. Khaddam met with Elie Salim immediately after his arrival, and their talks centered on the current situation in the Lebanese arena.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent following the meeting, Dr Elie Salim said: I took advantage of my presence here in Damascus to convey President Amin al-Jumayyil's greetings and wishes for a speedy recovery to President Hafiz al-Asad, and to convey the Lebanese people's greetings to the fraternal Syrian people.

Dr Salim pointed out that Lebanon is passing through a very serious stage and that his country has decided to liberate its territory, unify its ranks, and restore its dignity and sovereignty. He said: This decision makes coordination with Syria necessary. We have always viewed Syria as our pathway to the Arab world and as a neighbor with which relations must be promoted.

The Lebanese foreign minister pointed out that the Geneva conference had called upon President Amin al-Jumayyil to tour the United States, Europe, and the Arab world in order to create the proper climate that would achieve a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. He noted that Lebanon considers cooperation with the Syrian Government to be a basic means of settling the Lebanese crisis, which, to a large extent, is an international crisis, and one which is affected by Middle Eastern problems.

On the subject of his talks with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Dr Salim said: I held comprehensive talks on all issues with my colleague Khaddam. We also completed the talks which we began in Beirut 2 weeks ago, before President Amin al-Jumayyil's expected visit to Washington and before his upcoming visit to several European states next week.

Dr Salim added: Today's talks were very cordial and touched on all the important issues, with particular emphasis on those related to the liberation, sovereignty, and dignity of Lebanon.

Dr Salim said: We in Lebanon have no doubt that Lebanon's dignity is drawn from Syria's dignity, and that Syria's dignity is drawn from Lebanon's dignity. We also work on this basis and ask God to let us succeed in achieving Lebanon's national objectives. He noted that the acheivement of these objectives would also mean achievement of Arab and Syrian objectives, because a free, strong, and sovereign Lebanon is a pillar for Syria, while a weak and fragmented Lebanon is a danger and burden to Syria.

Dr Elie Salim left Damascus this afternoon following a short, several-hour visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

Al-Asad Briefed on Talks

JN261904 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today received 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. The president heard a detailed report on Khaddam's talks with Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim. He was also given a detailed explanation of the agreement announced yesterday concerning the situation in Tripoli.

Saudi Foreign Minister Departs

JN251652 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Damascus for home this afternoon. He was seen off at the airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; a number of Foreign Ministry officials; the Saudi charge d'affaires; and the embassy staff in Damascus.

Khaddam on Soviets, 'Possibility' of U.S. Attack

LD272344 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1800 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, by correspondent Alajos Chrudinak, in Damascus; date not given; Chrudinak and Khaddam remarks in Arabic fading into superimposed Hungarian translation — recorded]

[Text] [Chrudinak] I was told by [Lebanese President] al-Jumayyil that he has not yet officially asked Syria to leave Lebanon. Has the Lebanese president now made this request?

[Khaddam] We have not discussed that subject.

[Chrudinak] Not a word?

[Khaddam] No. That subject was not covered during our meeting.

[Chrudinak] In your opinion, on what conditions would Syria withdraw from Lebanon?

[Khaddam] First of all, the Israeli troops should withdraw from Lebanon unconditionally. The agreement which was forced on Lebanon by the Americans and the Israelis must be rescinded. Secondly, if these conditions are met, we are prepared to begin talks with the Lebanese Government concerning withdrawal. As we entered, so we are ready to leave Lebanon.

[Chrudinak] The Israeli chief of staff, Moshe Levi, said — and this was written in the Israeli press, too — that at your latest round of talks in Moscow you agreed with Foreign Minister Gromyko that Soviet military advisers should be withdrawn from Syria. Do you have any comment on this?

[Khaddam] Those are Israeli lies. We did not even touch upon that question.

[Chrudinak] That means the Soviet specialists will stay, right?

[Khaddam] Yes, they will stay.

[Chrudinsk] You said recently that the United States is not fulfilling the obligations which it had earlier assumed. What did you mean by this?

[Khaddam] I do not understand your question.

[Chrudinak] America is not keeping its promise. President al-Asad also this. What exactly were you referring to?

[Khaddam] During the Lebanese war and the cease-fire talks, the Americans committed themselves to an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. The Americans haven't kept this promise.

[Chrudinak] Why not? Were you to ask Shultz or McFarlane why they have failed to keep their promise, how would they answer?

[Khaddam] You should put that question to the Americans. But it is a fact that the Americans have not kept their promise.

[Chrudinak] Is it possible for Washington to launch a large military operation in Lebanon while taking advantage of the Palestinian infighting — the fact that 'Arafat is fighting in Tripoli and can perhaps be forced out or even killed? Do you expect this?

[Khaddam] The Americans conduct military operations only when it serves their own interests. If they can profit from a certain military adventure, then the possibility of any sort of military attack cannot be ruled out. However, all such actions are doomed to fail.

Khaddam Discusses Regional Affairs With Iranians

LD262113 Tehran IRNA in English 1933 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA — Mostafa Mirsalim, presidential advisor held talks with the Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus today. During the meeting, the issues of the region as well as the recent clashes in Tripoli were discussed. Mr. Mirsalim arrived in Damascus Friday heading a Foreign Ministry delegation. The delegation is to hand over a message from President Khamene'i for his Syrian counterpart, President Hafiz al-Asad. It is also to discuss the important current issues of the region, developments in northern Lebanon as well as bilateral ties with the Syrian officials.

Iranians Depart for Tripoli

GF261704 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA — The director general in charge of Afro-Asian Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, Hoseyn Lavasani heading a Foreign Ministry delegation left Damascus, Syria for Tripoli North Lebanon today. The delegation is travelling to North Lebanon to attempt to resolve the internecine fighting within the PLO which is wasting the Muslim Palestinian and Lebanese forces and weakening the resistance movement.

Mr. Lavasani arrived in Damascus Friday accompanying a delegation headed by presidential advisor Mostafa Mirsalim.

Sulayman Franjiyah Arrives 26 November

JN262120 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2045 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 26 Nov (SANA) — Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah arrived in Damascus from Europe this afternoon en route to Lebanon. He was accompanied by his son, Robert Franjiyah, and several members of the delegation that had participated with him in the Lebanese national conference in Geneva.

He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for presidential affairs, who accompanied him to the guest palace in Damascus.

In the evening, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, visited Sulayman Franjiyah at the guest palace. He welcomed him and discussed recent developments in both the Lebanese arena and the region as a whole.

Franjiyah later received former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Their talks centered on the agreement announced yesterday evening concerning the situation in Tripoli and on recent developments in the Lebanese arena.

Reportage on Al-Asad's Health, Activities

Damascus 'Rejoicing' Over Recovery

JN272010 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus — Damascus continues to express great joy at President Hafiz al-Asad's recovery. Folk dancing is going on in the streets and squares. Fireworks can be seen in the sky, and the report of small arms can be heard. Car horns are sounding in the streets as a further expression of rejoicing on this occasion.

Thanks Citizens

JN272050 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2025 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] We have received the following message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad:

Beloved citizens: I extend to all of you my thanks and feelings of pride at the demonstrations of joy and happiness which you have shown throughout the evening. I extend to each and every one of you feelings of boundless love and pride, and reaffirm that I will always remain one of you, and with you, so that we may

work together to maintain our homeland, and keep it strong and proud.

After this time of joy and happiness has passed, and after you have expressed your noble and genuine feelings in such a warm manner, I wish, dear ones and sons, that we end these manifestations of joy which we are now demonstrating and return to our normal, calm daily life.

I repeat my thanks to you and I extend to each one of you — children, the elderly, men, and women — my best wishes and love. I hope that God Almighty will give me continued good health so that I may continue my duty of service to you in the best possible manner.

Presides Over Ba'th Party Meeting

JN271600 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 27 Nov (SANA) — The Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party held a meeting this afternoon under the leadership of Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic. During the meeting, the Regional Command discussed various issues on the agenda and heard reports relating to the progress of work both in the party and in the state. The meeting also reviewed developments in the Arab arena, particularly in Lebanon, and the contacts held between Syria and a number of Arab and foreign countries. Similarly, the command reviewed the situation that has arisen as a result of U.S. and Israeli threats against Syria, as well as the measures taken to confront all possibilities.

The command also decided to hold a meeting of the Party Central Committee in December to discuss the state's general budget. It further decided to form two Regional Command committees under the leadership of the assistant regional secretary. These two bodies, which will be made up by the comrades in charge of the Regional Command offices, will be responsible for following the elections held by the General Federation of Syrian Women and the National Federation of Syrian Students.

The Regional Command also conveyed to Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic, the warm wishes expressed by our people during his illness, and their rejoicing at his recovery. Comrade al-Asad asked the Regional Command to convey to the citizens his deep affection and pride in their love and sympathy for him. He emphasized that he will always support the aspirations and will of the masses.

[Damascus Television Service in Arabic at 1836 GMT on 27 November transmitted the above item as the lead story of its 1830 GMT newscast. It accompanied its report with a film clip showing a smiling Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, in a dark suit, presiding over what the announcer described as the Ba'th Party Regional Command meeting held on 27 November. Al-Asad was shown sitting at the head of a table surrounded by Syrian officials.]

Stresses 'Principled Stands'

JN280701 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the republic, has stressed that Syria remains firmly committed to its principled stands and will not abandon them on the basis of threats. Addressing a Ba'th Party Regional Command meeting held at 1230 yesterday, leader Al-Asad added that he will always, without hesitation, be one with the masses and in touch with their aspirations and will. He expressed boundless confidence in our great people's ability and inevitable victory.

Defense Minister Attends 'Tactical Exercise'

JN271310 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus — At the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, an armored formation conducted a two-sided [dhi janibayn] tactical exercise in cooperation with various other branches of the military. Planes and helicopters from our Air Force also participated in the exercise.

The maneuvers were reviewed by by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief and minister of defense; Major General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces; senior Army Headquarters officers; and number of officers in command of Army formations.

At the beginning of the implementation stage, the director of the exercise gave a detailed briefing on the tactical concepts involved, beginning with preparation for combat and deployment to assembly areas, and concluding with the waging of an offensive battle to destroy the enemy and occupy a suitable position — supported by a tactical airborne operation — within the enemy's defenses.

The formation which carried out the exercise fulfilled its assigned tasks and successfully destroyed designated targets under conditions quite close to those of real battle.

At the end of the exercise, Talas inspected the fighters in the field. He praised their efforts and success in conducting the exercise. He told them to continue training so as to maintain sharp combat skills and permanent readiness in order to further pursue the path of liberating our occupied Arab territory and restoring our rights. Talas conveyed greetings to the fighters from leader President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, asking them to be alert and ready at all times to confront every U.S. imperialist, Zionist, and Arab reactionary plot.

Commentary Promises No 'Submission' to U.S. Will
JN251456 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, southern Lebanon was the site of huge Israeli military maneuvers accompanied by U.S.-Israeli sorties in Lebanese airspace. Informed U.S. sources link these new military moves to a message which the Israeli Government received from the U.S. Administration, requesting it to increase its concentration of forces, particularly armored units and heavy artillery.

All these moves and contacts come at a time when the possibility of launching an act of agression against Syria is on the increase. Certain parties believe that the timing of this act of aggression will be fixed during Shamir's visit to Washington on 27 November, 1983. Others contend that the conflagration could break out at any time, since the Arab region is currently witnessing an enormous assembly of forces. Certainly, NATO units did not come to the region in order to set up an arms exposition; similarly, Israel did not beef up its forces in order to participate in this show. Everyone frankly admits that Syria is the object of everything that is now going on in the Middle Eastern arena — at both the political and military level.

Washington views Syria as an obstacle in the path of the settlement which it plans to impose on the Arabs. It also considers the Middle East to be vital to its own security. Thus, Washington has interests in the region which must be safeguarded. This is the logic employed by the United States to justify the U.S. Administration's military line against Syria and the Arabs. If the United States prefers to use force in order to impose its hegemony on the Arab homeland and to strike at Syria because it constitutes an obstacle to its dreams of hegemony and its despotic whims, it is Syria's right — while defending its territory from within its own borders — to oppose all the old and new plans, designs, dreams, and hopes with every available means.

Syria did not cross the seas with fleets and armies to fight the United States on the latter's territory or to encroach upon its sovereignty. Is defending rights and protecting lives an act of extreme terrorism? Syria pays no attention to judgements made by the U.S. Administration. When Syria adopts a decision to oppose all efforts aimed at imposing hegemony or installing plans that infringe upon Arab rights, it does not care if the the United States is satisfied. Syria's stands are purely Syrian affairs which arise from a concern to prevent any encroaching on Arab issues and to reject any solution or plan which does not fulfill internationally recognized Arab demands.

We are proponents of peace to the degree that peace fulfills our legitimate rights; we reject any peace that is either forcibly imposed upon us or bears little relation to right and justice. If the United States masses its forces and encourages Israel — which needs no encouragement — to wage a campaign of aggression against Syria in order to forcibly impose its hegemony and make Syria change its position, such force — regardless of enormity or extent — cannot break our will or push us to change our stands. Although we do not belittle the strength of U.S. force, we will not bow our heads or raise our hands in submission to the will of the United States. We will not be intimidated by the noise of planes and guns; we will answer force with force. We shall do this without fear of the massed armies which stand at our doors beating the drums of war and aggression. Syria will be neither a passage nor a place of residence for these armies. This will be so regardless of the sacrifices or length of the conflict with the unjust and tyrannical forces that use violence and terroristic methods against those forces which are struggling for their sovereignty, independence, and freedom.

Syria realizes that it is facing a decisive and fateful conflict. It also realizes that it gains strength from its long experience in struggle, faith in the justice of its cause, and the masses of our Arab nation who support it.

TISHRIN on Planned 'Foolhardy Military Action'
JN261047 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 26 Nov (SANA) — Under the headline "A Return to the Language of Threats and Miscalculation," *TISHRIN* says: It seems that the United States has completed its preparations for a foolhardy military action against Syria, whether directly or through Israel, its base of aggression. The paper adds: The large numbers of U.S. and NATO naval units and aircraft carriers in the Eastern Mediterranean are not there for an innocent picnic or a show of muscle.

The paper notes that the United States is now seeking to exploit Syria's stand on Lebanon and Israel as part of the White House election game, and that the military elimination or political neutralization of Syria as a first step in its collapse at the pan-Arab level are long-standing U.S. strategic objectives.

The paper adds that the dangerous game 'Arafat is playing in Tripoli — in complete coordination with the imperialist West, Western reactionaries, and the Camp David capitals in order to divert attention from what is being concocted against Syria — is a blatant attempt to prevent Syria from preparing to confront this concentration of naval forces off the Lebanese and Syrian coasts and to facilitate aggression against Syria in order to peddle what 'Arafat and his new allies are seeking to achieve and what the United States has been planning for some time.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria will continue to be the most difficult element in the regional equation, and the one which shapes and directs events in our homeland. This is true because it has the strength to deter any aggression, and because it has a strategic hold which allows it to safeguard its great stands and to protect the Arab nation and its just and legitimate right to an honorable and decent Arab peace.

Reagan Said To Have Approved Al-Biqa' Attack
JN261526 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, reports from Washington indicate that U.S.

President Ronald Reagan has entrusted the Department of Justice with the task of investigating and discovering the source which leaked the essence of the discussions conducted within the U.S. National Security Council. According to news agencies, the investigation includes such senior U.S. political officials as Secretary of State George Shultz and Secretary of the Interior William Clark. The most exciting part of the issue is the fact that the investigation was prompted by U.S. television networks and *THE WASHINGTON POST*, both of which had carried two important earlier reports. The first claimed that Robert McFarlane, the U.S. President's national security adviser and former presidential envoy to the Middle East, had proposed — at the National Security Council — a direct U.S. military blow against Syrian forces in Al-Biqa'. The second report said that U.S. President Ronald Reagan approved McFarlane's proposals and authorized the commander of U.S. forces in Lebanon to call upon U.S. fighter planes and battleships in the Mediterranean for assistance. No responsible U.S. official has denied the reports carried by U.S. television networks and newspapers, but orders have been issued to determine the source of this leak. This means that the U.S. President had at some time made the decision to launch an attack, despite all the U.S. reports about the task of the multinational force, despite all the U.S. talk about peace and the efforts to achieve political settlements for the region's problems, and despite all the U.S. talk about the desire for dialogue.

What has taken place and what is now taking place in the region increases concern over the possibility of a U.S. military adventure in the Middle East, particularly against Syria. Were this not the case, why would the United States deploy such a number of battleships to the Eastern Mediterranean — an act unprecedented since World War II? Why is the United States dispatching more troops to the Eastern Mediterranean and Lebanon? Why is the United States landing tanks on the Lebanese coast? Why did it reactivate strategic cooperation with Israel? And why are Israeli rulers being encouraged to launch a war against Syria, as former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said in an article for *THE JERUSALEM POST*?

The danger of a direct or — through Israel — indirect U.S. act of aggression against Syrian forces is both serious and real. This is why 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has told the press that Syria expects an act of aggression to be launched. By reminding Syria of U.S. plans to initiate a direct or indirect military action against Syria,the U.S. Administration proves that it has only contempt for international laws and charters. It also proves that the U.S. Administration is playing with fire and seeks to jeopardize international relations and world peace.

Thus, it is the duty of the United Nations and all peace-loving forces in the world to curb U.S. aggression and halt its playing with fire in the Middle East powderkeg. Syria is not Grenada, and any attempt against Syria will be confronted by a brave Syrian self-defense. This self-defense overlooks no means which might be used and exploits all possibilities for its own support. Should Syria be exposed to aggression, it will not be alone, despite the fact that it fully depends on its intrinsic power, its masses, and Armed Forces. The masses of the Arab nation, world public opinion, the peace- and freedom-loving forces in the world, the overwhelming majority of the UN member states, and the forces which have security interests in the Middle East and the Mediterranean will stand beside Syria. All forces which have security interests in the Middle East and the Mediterranean view any possible Israeli-U.S. military contentiousness as a serious threat to their interests and security.

It is not yet too late. It is in the interest of the United States to forego any stupid act of aggression, because such an action would destroy all that the United States has achieved in the region over an entire decade. This action would also expose world peace to serious dangers, the consequences of which cannot be predicted. It will be to the benefit of regional and world peace if the visit to Washington by Shamir and Arens does not result in a new war.

Shamir Interviewed on Issues Before Trip to U.S.

TA260845 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Interview with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on "the eve of his U.S. visit"; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, the heads of the U.S. Administration have in recent months thought that in order to encourage King Husayn to join the peace process, Israel had better freeze the establishment of settlements in Judaea and Samaria. In your opinion, if this issue is raised again, will you agree to Israel freezing the establishment of settlements for some time if this in turn encourages and brings Husayn to the negotiating table?

[Shamir] This issue is not on the agenda. I think that our friends in the United States as well as King Husayn know this. He may need some encouragement so as to join the negotiations over peace arrangements but he needs encouragement to overcome his fears — his fears of the PLO and of Syria — and this has nothing to do with Israel's positions.

[Schiffer] Mr Shamir, why not freeze the settlements for some time if this helps? Israel has set up settlements — it has a large settlement system already — and can continue to do so in the future. We are after all talking of a suggestion regarding new settlements.

[Shamir] I have said that Israel is not at all considering such a possibility. Israel has to lead its life, to make everything needed of it, everything necessary, and this has nothing to do with the negotiations with Husayn, Egypt or anybody else. Husayn has not joined the negotiations, not because of Israel's action or inaction or blunders. He has not joined to date because 'Arafat did not agree to his joining. He has not joined because of the Rabat summit resolution of 1974. He has not joined because of his fear of Syrian reactions. We all know of the increasing number of terrorist acts against certain people and facilities in Jordan. These are the impediments and the delays, not speculative matters which have nothing to do with this issue.

[Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, if you had been in Husayn's place, what would you have to take into consideration in thinking of whether or not to join the peace process, against the background of these dangers facing your kingdom? What is Israeloffering Husayn today in fact, besides the proposal of him joining the negotiating table bona fide?

[Shamir] Israel is offering Husayn what it is offering to all its neighbors: peace.

[Schiffer] Jordan has peace with Israel. After all, you yourself said that Jordan and Israel live in peaceful coexistence.

[Shamir] This is not peaceful coexistence. It is something like it, something like de facto peace, but it is not peace in fact. It is not peace with normal trade relations or any other kind of relations.

[Schiffer] You are going to leave for the United States at the beginning of the week for talks with the U.S. Administration leaders. The Jordanian issue with all its attendant aspects will surely be raised, with one of the aspects being the idea of setting up a Jordanian task force with U.S. aid. The Americans believe that Israel should not loudly oppose this idea since it [Israel] is likened to a Goliath-size partner. Will you express total opposition to this idea in the United States?

[Shamir] I do not know what proposals on this matter will be raised by the U.S. Administration officials in the talks with us. It should truthfully be said that we do not exactly understand this idea of some new force in a neighboring Arab country which does not have peace with Israel and whose duty or task will theoretically be defending the stability of the Middle East. Against whom? Against whom will they have to defend the Middle East with the sophisticated and modern arms they will receive from the United States. We cannot imagine any regional Arab country being capable of fighting the Soviet Union, nor even a strong country in the region. If Iran is emerging victorious in its war with Iraq, can two Jordanian brigades or those of any other Arab country then play a deciding role in such a war, such a battle? We know only one thing from our historic experience: any arms given to an Arab country which is not on terms of peace with Israel will ultimately be turned against Israel.

[Schiffer] Can we understand from your remarks that it will be possible to reach some understanding with you in the framework of Israeli-U.S. cooperation, that the United States will be able to continue activity in such a country it considers friendly through the establishment of such a force while reaching understanding with Israel regarding the strengthening of Israel's security?

[Shamir] We certainly know and understand that the United States should maintain friendly relations not only with Israel but also with regional Arab countries. However, this friendship need not be expressed in the supply of arms.

[Schiffer] There is almost no issue on the subject of strategic cooperation which has not been raised between Israel and the United States prior to your visit to Washington. What would you like to see as the result of this visit on this matter? Would you like to see this matter laid down in an official document?

[Shamir] I do not crave such a document, of all things. However, there should be full understanding, mutual understanding and agreement on those spheres where we see matters eye-to-eye, and understanding on practical measures which should be adopted so as to achieve common goals.

[Schiffer] When you talk about the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, will you, if requested, agree to lower the profile on this agreement issue? Will you agree to give up clauses of the agreement in order to get Syria to join the political process in order to ultimately bring about an overall settlement in Lebanon?

[Shamir] This agreement was achieved after long and tiring negotiations, in the course of which we in fact ceded many points we had earlier demanded [darashnu]. If you examine this agreement, you can see that it contains minimum and not maximum conditions, both in the sphere of security arrangements and in the sphere of normal relations between Israel and Lebanon. I

cannot see how it is possible to reduce the size of the agreement which is already reduced. The United States was a party to this agreement, a very active and influential one, and therefore I cannot imagine that in the United States we will be requested to change anything in the agreement signed by the three parties concerned: Israel, Lebanon, and the United States. Syria was not a party to these negotiations, nor is it a party to this agreement.

[Schiffer] Will this be your position also if it is explained to you that if Israel gives up political clauses in the agreement this will lead to accelerating the process of the Syrian pullback from Lebanon?

[Shamir] This has nothing to do with it. No change in this agreement will remove the Syrians from Lebanon if they do not want to leave Lebanon due to interests or tendencies of their own. Syria's tendencies in Lebanon are a completely different matter. Syria is opposed to the agreement between Israel and Lebanon not because of its content. It is opposed to the very fact that any regional country would have an agreement with Israel. Therefore, Syria demands [doreshet] its cancellation, not its amendment. It demands [doreshet] this politically and this has nothing to do with the content or the clauses of the agreement.

[Schiffer] With your permission, let us continue to dwell on the Lebanese issue. Israel has released thousands of detainees from the Ansar camp and some claim that southern Lebanon will turn into a hornets' nest in a short while and that the IDF will again have to fight against terrorists and terrorist organizations. Does it seem to you that Israel had to pay this price which may restore the previous status quo?

[Shamir] I said that this was a very heavy price, a heavy price we paid to rescue our soldiers, our prisoners of war. We should of course be aware of the risks we undertook in the wake of these concessions, in the wake of this price that we paid. I hope that our defense establishment will know how to cope with this. I hope that despite the dangers we shall prove to ourselves as well as to others that we have not undertaken risks which we can not face up to.

MA'ARIV 'Special' Shamir Interview

TA270922 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Nov 83 pp 1, 11

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] "President Reagan is a loyal ally to Israel. I intend to discuss with him ways of expanding the peace process and measures to deter the Syrians who threaten the regional stability and security." These remarks were made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in a special interview to *MA'ARIV* granted just before his departure to Washington this morning, together with the defense minister, for meetings with President Reagan and the U.S. Administration leadership.

The prime minister added: "In my talks in Washington I will explain Israel's position in the political process and its desire to resume the autonomy negotiations as determined in the Camp David accords. Egypt is not prepared to renew the negotiations without the participation of Jordan, and although this refusal is not right, we will welcome King Husayn's incorporation in the peace process on the basis of the Camp David accords and without preconditions."

The prime minister does not believe that the chances for Husayn's joining the peace process soon are not great. "One should wait and see how things develop in the region. Even if Husayn wants to join the political negotiations, he will wait and see how matters are decided in the PLO which prevented his joining the talks about 6 months ago."

"The decline of the PLO," the prime minister says, "may make it easier for Husayn to decide and may help the peace process. We have for a long time now witnessed the process of the PLO's decline, and it does not come as a surprise for us. What is happening in the Arab world today may help achieve a positive change regarding the peace process in future, but I would not say that immediate decisions are expected in the Arab world."

Summing up the Jordanian issue, the prime minister said he does not propose to put an emphasis on the issue of Husayn in his talks in Washington. The prime minister is opposed to any initiative or proposal, if they are made, to temporarily freeze the establishment of new settlements in order to encourage King Husayn to join the peace process. He is also opposed to the idea raised in the U.S. Administration to set up a Jordanian task force which may harm Israel with its modern equipment and arms.

"The United States and Israel," Shamir says, "act for peace and stability and have together achieved two common goals: the Camp David accords, and the Israeli-Lebanese agreement. We will have to act to expand the peace frameworks and to coordinate our action against those who try to sabotage the process. These elements are led by Syria which is the worrisome problem in the region today. This is the only country which threatens peace and security in the region."

Shamir, Arens Leave; Shamir Airport Statement

TA270600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0545 GMT 27 Nov 83

[News conference given by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to his and Defense Minister Arens's departure for the United States — live]

[Text] [Shamir] Good morning. We are leaving for the United States this morning at the invitation of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in order to discuss common Israeli-U.S. problems. Israel and the United States have common goals in the Middle East region. The two countries act for the existence and promotion of peace and stability in the region. Experience has proven it is possible to promote these goals by tight cooperation and a coordination of positions between Israel and the United States.

In these talks in Washington we will discuss ways and means to tighten this cooperation and to coordinate activities. We will discuss all problems connected with the situation in Lebanon, the Syrian issue, and promoting the peace process. We will also discuss together practical measures to strengthen the Israeli

economy and strengthen Israel's deterrence capability, since it is clear, to the United States too, that a strong Israel is a guarantee — the best guarantee — for peace in the Middle East. See you at the end of the week. I wish you and the entire Israeli people a happy Hanuka.

[Unidentified speaker] The prime minister will now answer a number of questions.

[Shim'on Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, is Israel following the reports about President al-Asad's health condition, and what is the assessment as to what will happen after Al-Asad's era in the region?

[Shamir] We are certainly interested in everything which takes place in the region.

[Yoram Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, will Israel insist on its request to change all U.S. security aid from a loan to a grant?

[Shamir] We shall discuss in detail all matters connected with U.S. aid to Israel. I would not say now which positions we will adopt in these talks.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, in the course of your present visit to the United States, may a joint Israeli-U.S. initiative be adopted to bring King Husayn into the political negotiations?

[Shamir] We will discuss the promotion of the peace process in the region and it may well be that together we will decide on the adoption of certain measures.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is there ground for optimism on this issue?

[Shamir] We are always optimistic regarding everything pertaining to promoting peace in our region. Thank you.

Correspondent on Visit

TA270615 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer at Ben-Gurion airport, prior to Shamir's and Arens's departure for the United States "this morning" — live]

[Text] The visit by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the United States will be crowned with success. This has already been guaranteed. One should not take a serious view of the reports that accompanied the beginning of the U.S. visit by the preparatory team which left a while ago to the effect that the team has been unable to reach conclusions or agreements [sikumim]. According to the information disseminated by Israeli sources in Washington, matters will be decided in the meetings held between Shamir and Reagan. The issues will be officially concluded in the White House, but just as with any visit determined to be successful in advance, the conclusions or agreements [sikumim] regarding it have already been achieved and were transmitted to the prime minister's attention at the end of last week.

The following are some of the issues regarding which Israel and the United States have understanding and agreement. The planners of the visit made an effort to keep this utterly secret.

The United States has already expressed its willingness to favorably discuss Israel's request to have a free trade zone between the two countries which means a very significant push for Israel's industry. It should be noted that in question here is a long process which will not take place tomorrow, but the U.S. readiness which will be announced during the prime minister's visit is very positive. The joint work teams which prepared the visit also agreed that in the framework of the cooperation, the United States will also store medicines and other equipment in Israel. The Israeli and U.S. Navies will conduct a joint maritime maneuver in the eastern Mediterranean.

There are no agreements or conclusions [sikumim] on a number of other issues. The report reaching Jerusalem indicates that Washington is openly dissatisfied with Israel's intention to request that the entire military aid be turned into a grant. Involved are hundreds of millions of dollars, and the United States has only recently improved the terms of the aid and grants for the development of the Lavi aircraft.

It is already known that a demand [tevi'a] to freeze the settlements in the territories in order to encourage Husayn to join the negotiations will not be raised in the talks. Discussions will be held over what the Americans term improvement of the quality of life in the territories, and it will be requested that the Israeli gesture vis-a-vis Husayn be made in this sphere.

Yitzhaq Shamir is then leaving for the United States this morning full of encouragement. At the end of the week he told me: In this visit I want to achieve practical goals by means which will strengthen Israel's security and economy. Therefore, there is no talk of documents of strategic understanding or other general understandings. As in the past, Israel will again request it be allowed to participate in U.S. Army tenders and to supply its products to this Army, as well as to enable Israel to sell Israeli products with U.S. components to various countries. On the political issues, understanding will be found regarding the meaning of Syria's strengthening. Shamir and Arens will also exchange information about Al-Asad's condition. At the end of the week Western sources continued to claim that the health condition of the Syrian president, who is hospitalized in Damascus, has further deteriorated. Some embassies have already reported that Al-Asad died and that the Syrian leaders are concealing this fact until a successor is found for him. For the time being we are here waiting at the Ben-Gurion airport for the departure of Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Arens.

Kimche Observing Ties With Egypt, Lebanon

TA251406 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Nov 83 p 8 Political Supplement

[Commentary by Arye Tzimuqi: "David Kimche Is Waiting for His Egyptian Colleague"]

[Text] The person who is currently observing the continued relations — albeit limited — with Egypt on the one hand, and

with members of the Lebanese Administration on the other hand, is Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, of whom Kimche is a close associate, is pleased with the way the director general handles contacts with authoritative Cairo and Beirut personalities. These days, Kimche is awaiting the arrival of his Egyptian counterpart, Muhammad ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid, the director general of the Egyptian Foreign Affairs Ministry, to continue the dialogue that began during Kimche's visit to Cairo not long ago.

The Egyptian ministers, General 'Ali and Butrus Ghali, emphasized over and over again, in their talks with Kimche, that whatever the developments in the region are, Egypt will observe the peace agreement with Israel. The two noted that President Mubarak regards the peace agreement with Israel as a political asset that should be kept. One ought not to forget that Kimche was invited to Cairo following U.S. pressure on Mubarak. Dismay was expressed in Washington over Mubarak's refusal to send his ambassador back to Tel Aviv. The Egyptian president promised the administration that an effort will be made to send the ambassador back to Israel and renew the contacts on a senior level.

Meanwhile, several weeks have gone by and no change seems to have come about on this matter, just as there appears to be no change regarding resuming the autonomy talks, as Prime Minister Shamir suggested a few times recently.

The Egyptians contend that as long as Jordan does not announce that it is joining the autonomy talks, there is no point resuming them. They add that as long as the IDF remains in Lebanon, they will find it difficult to explain the return of their ambassador to Israel to the Arab leaders.

David Kimche does not delude himself that a breakthrough in Israeli-Egyptian relations is to be expected, but he knows that the contacts will be renewed in a limited fashion. Similarly, some improvement can be expected in the economic sphere, in tourism and the like.

So Kimche also pays attention to maintaining personal relations with some Beirut Administration leaders, and explains to them the importance, from their point of view, of observing the agreement with Israel.

He emphasizes repeatedly that the observance of the agreement is important for the Lebanese Government, because its abrogation would mean nothing but Lebanon's subjugation to Syria and its loss of sovereignty.

The Beirut leaders try to explain to Kimche that he must consider their special, unique predicament — the conflict of interests within Lebanon, the Syrian pressure, and other factors.

So far, Amin al-Jumayyil has courageously withstood the heavy pressure applied on him by Al-Asad, and is not ready to revoke the agreement or even freeze it. Just like the Egyptian case, in Lebanon, too, there is long-term importance to the very fact that a bilateral agreement exists.

David Levi Interviewed on Syrian Buildup Statement

TA251643 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Nov 83 p 5

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi by Avi'ezer Golan; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Question: Why did you feel you had to go out to the public with such an "explosive" warning, which might have caused alarm?

Answer: In order to awaken people. The reaction I got proves that there was complacency in the public.

What did I actually say? — That the Syrian Army is undergoing an unprecedented buildup, in the most sophisticated arms as well as in deployment, which will enable it to pass quickly from defense to offense. But not just this: Anybody following Al-Asad's concept can point to three characteristics showing his strategy as well as ambition.

Ambition — He strives toward the leadership of the Arab world, based on a rigid line toward the Americans and aggression toward Israel. He is also making an effort to create conditions in which he will be the only one able to face Israel on his own, without aid from any additional Arab country.

The strategy, in the military area, is manifest in an unceasing effort to dictate the conditions of any agreement reached in Lebanon, while the main trend is to prevent Israel from getting any achievement.

These are serious things which call for us to be alert and on guard, not only in order to face any evil, but mainly to prevent a dangerous development. First and foremost we, the public, must be aware of the danger, "and to cause awareness does not necessarily mean to cause panic."

Question: But did the cool reception this received from the prime minister and defense minister not point to the fact that there are disagreements among us about the way in which the Syrian moves should be interpreted?

Answer: As for the situation, and the evaluations regarding the Syrian intentions, there are no disagreements. The fact is that a day after I said what I did both the U.S. *TIME* and the German *DIE WELT* magazines published interviews with the prime minister in which he also said that the Syrian intention is to attack Israel, and that the buildup in the Syrian Army poses a threat to us. So I do not understand such an attitude that only the people of Israel should not know about the danger posed to them, of which we are all aware and agree about. After all, I did not talk about an impending attack, and there were no undertones of panic in my statements. I only thought that people like us, who have our past, must not be surprised and know the situation. And the surprise aroused by what I said, which found expression in the media, confirms that the full severity of the situation was not known.

Question: How will you explain, then, the efforts to "soften" the impression made by your statements and to tone down the severity of the situation?

Answer: I have no answer to this, aside from reasons which are not relevant to the issue at hand.

Question: But to the man here?

Answer: The main point is that the Syrian threats should not cause panic. However, they should also not be taken lightly. And this is what the government is doing: It treats them with the utmost seriousness.

Question: There are those who claim that all this "barging into" the security subject, which is not your jurisdiction, comes only in order to demand a "right" to the Foreign Ministry, which you covet....

Answer: (This is an "unfair" question. After all, David Levi is not only housing and construction minister, he is the deputy prime minister as well — and in 2 days, and until Yitzhaq Shamir returns from Washington — he will be acting prime minister. Security issues, therefore, are definitely within his "jurisdiction," like any other subject vital to the country — although there are those who prefer to ignore this fact. However, he prefers to pass on the chance "to settle accounts." Instead, he answers the question directly.)

When I feel that the situation is serious, as I did indeed feel, it is my legitimate right and duty to express this feeling. This has nothing to do with the Foreign Ministry or anything like this.

Question: But you still see yourself as a candidate for the Foreign Ministry portfolio when the prime minister decided to reorganize the government? Did you receive any promises on this issue?

Answer: There is an understanding between me and the prime minister on these issues, everything will come in time, by mutual agreement of course.

Question: What sort of implications for the Syrian problem do you expect from the prime minister's visit to Washington?

Answer: Syria is striving to implement its aims with massive aid from the Soviet Union, which has vital and global interests and plans in the region. Of course, the United States may have something to say about it. Moreover, Arab countries as well, those considered close or connected to the West, might be swept toward the extreme Syrian line if it turns out to be a profitable one. Hence, the joint U.S.- Israeli interest is to coordinate stands and cooperate. There are signs that the United States understands this.

Question: (I go over to a topic which leaves less leeway for diplomatic answers.) Recently, claims were heard that once again you slowed the pace of settlement in Judaea and Samaria. Is that so?

Answer: (We have scored a hit. David Levi has a problem. During the Cabinet discussions on the Peace for Galilee operation, it transpired that he was one of the leaders of those criticizing the efforts to extend the aims and size of the operation. He was labeled a "dove" and all his efforts to change this image found little sympathy from some of his party members, among others. Now he stands up and sheds any pretense of "diplomacy.")

Everything that was built during my time — as the one responsible for building and developing Judaea and Samaria — is the answer to the tendentious claims voiced recently, which have a certain personal aspect and which are being circulated by certain people who would like to profit from them. The construction in Judaea and Samaria, as well as in the Golan, The Negev, and the Galilee, are the fruit of my ministry's tremendous effort and a result of the preference given to these national subjects. I put my heart and soul and unparalleled efforts into this. I do not need sermons or validation on this issue. Even when the slogan "I have nothing" was the line directing government activities (a hint to the era of Hurvitz as finance minister — A.G.) I gave precedence to building Judaea and Samaria. Then, those wearing the mantle of "Eretz Yisra'el devotees" told me to slow down, and I did not listen to them. And when I look over all that has been built in Judaea and Samaria — the urban settlements of 'Imanu'el and Ari'el, Ma'ale Adummim, Giv'at Ze'ev, Qarne Shomron, Alfe Menashe, Efrat, and many other community settlements — I am happy. When I heard Labor MK Ya'aqobi complain, after a tour of the settlements, that those settlements seal off any chance for an "arrangement" [hesder], I knew my efforts had borne fruit....

Question: But the criticism is directed to the situation today. Will the building continue despite the cuts in the budget since Yig'al Kohen-Orgad was appointed finance minister?

Answer: As for the present year, despite the cuts, the Construction and Housing Ministry is ready, according to my directives, to carry out the building plan as I announced it from the Knesset podium: This year we will establish 6 new settlements, and build 2,400 housing units in the urban settlements in Judaea and Samaria — in addition to the 7,000 units now being built, and in addition to the development of the infrastructure of roads, schools, kindergartens, and other public buildings in the existing settlements. Those deeds are my pride, and I will continue them with pride.

Cabinet Meeting Discusses Economic Affairs

TA271140 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1108 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer from the prime minister's office — live]

[Text] The Cabinet meeting ended a few minutes ago. The Cabinet discussed economic affairs mainly, including the cost of living [COL] increment. The finance minister briefed the ministers about the current deliberations held between the employers and the Histadrut regarding the advance COL payment. A lively discussion was held in the Cabinet on this issue, led by Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i. When he left the Cabinet meeting and we asked him what was decided in the meeting on the COL issue,

he said the following only: The COL issue was not concluded since the government does not have a policy on this. We heard a reaction on this after the meeting by Acting Prime Minister David Levi:

[Begin Levi recording] I do not know what any other minister thinks. The government has a policy. It has signed an agreement and honors it. It should be made possible for the finance minister to reach an agreement with the Histadrut. It is not wise at all for the government to sit down and make a decision on a matter which is being discussed between the employers and the Histadrut or of an upcoming agreement with the Histadrut. It is not wise at all for the government to make a determination on a decision which runs contrary to its policy only in order to be able to say it has made a decision. What do we then want? Are we seeking a clash with the Histadrut? Are we seeking to create tension among the people or an argument for making another decision which is not necessary? The Cabinet does not convene only in order to make a decision when one is unnecessary. The Cabinet has made decisions in many spheres — on current affairs and on laws — and has thus done its job. [end recording]

David Levi has defended the meeting he chaired and the fact that the Cabinet did not reach any decisions on this today.

The Cabinet did make a decision on another issue. The ministers approved a 1-month budget for the broadcasting authority. A number of ministers took advantage of this discussion to attack the television's reporting, including the manner in which the return of the Israeli prisoners was covered as well as a number of reports aired at the end of the week. We will hear more about this though.

It seems that on the topic of the day, there was no discussion today. I am here referring to the health conditions of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Although the reports on his health condition abound — some say his condition is very grave or that he has already died — the ministers did not discuss this today, nor the implications involved in this. Following the meeting I presented a question to David Levi on this question to.

[Begin recording] [Schiffer] Mr Levi, with your permission, one question on another issue. The communications media are today full of reports that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has either died or is in a very grave condition. How do you view this situation in which a complete change may take place in the Syrian leadership?

[Levi] How did you put this? Well, there are reports and it is necessary to examine them. What do you want? Do you want us to start forecasts now? The government has adopted the necessary measures vis-a-vis Syria. Let us wait for developments on these reports. [end recording]

Syrian TV Does Not Show Al-Asad at Meeting

TA271707 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] In its newscast a short time ago, Syrian television did not show pictures of the meeting of the Ba'th Party leadership which, according to official reports, was attended by President al-Adad. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus notes that the Syrians usually broadcast these meetings live and that, in any event, many shots of President al-Asad are shown. This time there was only a slide, and the announcer read remarks attributed to the Syrian president. Our monitor says that this change puts a question mark on the reports disseminated by Damascus that Al-Asad had recovered and chaired the meeting.

Lebanon's Al-Wazzan Says Agreement 'Frozen'

TA261916 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has said that the agreement with Israel has been frozen, and that the Israeli representation in Beirut will close down as soon as the IDF completes its evacuation from Lebanon. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that in an interview over the Lebanese state radio, Al-Wazzan stated that the Israeli representation does not enjoy official status. According to him, this is one of the signs of occupation, and it will be annulled as soon as the occupation is over. The Lebanese prime minister said that the agreement with Israel was a means to bring about an end to occupation, and now that this purpose has not been achieved, the agreement has been frozen and Lebanon will not ratify it. The Lebanese prime minister's statement came on the eve of the departure of President Amin al-Jumayyil for Rome and Washington, and 1 day after an agreement to stop the fighting in Tripoli was signed in Damascus.

Al-Wazzan Remarks Clarified

TA270950 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Nov 83 pp 1, 11

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Senior Lebanese Government officials and U.S. Administration officials have informed Israel that its representation in Lebanon will not be harmed and that there is no intention to instruct the Israeli representatives to leave Beirut. This has been learned from senior sources in Jerusalem. The Lebanese Government officials and the U.S. diplomats have expressed to Israel the commitment to maintain the framework of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement despite the Lebanese Government's inability to implement it due to political constraints and political pressures by the Syrians. So far Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil has refrained from officially announcing the freezing or cancellation of the agreement despite Syrian pressures. Jerusalem yesterday received the report about Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan's remarks that the Lebanese Government has decided to freeze the agreement and to instruct the closure of the Israeli representation following the completion of the IDF evacuation of Lebanon. Following a brief check of his remarks, it transpired that the statement by Al-Wazzan, who is a Muslim, does not express President al-Jumayyil's view on the subject and that this statement should be treated as lip service by Al-Wazzan toward Damascus.

A senior political source in Jerusalem said yesterday: "One need not get excited over the Lebanese prime minister's remarks

on the future of the representation. The IDF is not going to leave Lebanon tomorrow and many more things may happen in this country still."

Reaction to Al-Wazzan Statement

TA271407 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 27 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] In response to the statement made by Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan on freezing the agreement between Israel and Lebanon, and closing down the Israel representation in Beirut, political circles in Jerusalem said that this indicates an attempt to draw closer to Syria. On the other hand, the Lebanese president declared at the reconciliation conference in Geneva that an annulment of the agreement with Israel was possible only with the consent of the United States, which had guarenteed it. As for closing the offices of the Israeli representation in Beirut once the IDF pulls out, it was stated that the declaration on this issue was not clear, and Israel had the option of reacting to such a step by closing down Lebanese Government offices in southern Lebanon. However, it is thought that this statement was solely for the benefit of negotiations with Syria.

Leader Wants Autonomy For Lebanese Druze

TA251459 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] The spiritual leader of the Druze in Israel, Shaykh Amin Tarif, has asked Israel and the United States to help the Druze of Lebanon establish autonomy in the Ash-Shuf mountains. In a cable sent to the prime minister, Shaykh Tarif asks Yitzhaq Shamir to present this request during the talks in Washington next week. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that a similar cable has been sent to the U.S. ambassador in Israel.

Ansar Camp Commander on Released Detainees

TA261030 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] The man who set up the Ansar camp and commanded it for a long time, reserves Colonel Me'ir Rosenfeld, said that in his opinion only a small number of the thousands of detainees released from the camp will return to terrorist activity since the hard months they spent in Ansar will serve as a deterrence for them. He also said that the safety and well-being of the eight Israeli prisoners of war held by the terrorists was a decisive consideration in running the Ansar camp. In many cases it was decided to exercise restraint regarding very violent provocations by the camp inmates, for fear that a firm reaction would harm our captive soldiers.

Detainees Returning to Beirut

TA261637 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] In the last 2 days a few hundred of the released Ansar detainees passed from southern Lebanon to the Beirut area via the Al-Awwali bridges. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that most of them are Palestinians whose families live in refugee camps around Ad-Damur. A few dozen detainees who are not Lebanese citizens and who want to leave Lebanon via the Beirut airport have also crossed north.

Attorney on POW Negotiations

TA261033 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Attorney Shmu'el Tamir who played an active role in the negotiations over the return of the Israeli prisoners of war says that the terrorists had demanded that any of the released Arab security prisoners who were residents of Israel and of Judaea and Samaria should be able to return to their places of residence. Israel rejected this demand and finally these prisoners were also flown to Algeria.

Tamir said that the release of these prisoners was the most important matter for the terrorists — much more than that of the Ansar camp detainees — since the ones held in Israeli jails belong to the most fanatic and innermost core of the PLO.

Forces Activated To Guard West Bank Roads

TA270532 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] A firm hand in Judaea and Samaria: The Defense establishment has categorically decided not to allow acts of violence along the Judaea and Samaria roads anymore, even if this means a more serious military presence in the region.

This was stated this morning by the coordinator of activities in the territories, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, about the use of special forces and measures as of this morning for guarding the traffic axes.

Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that the prime minister and defense minister promised the heads of the Jewish settlements that their security requirements will be met.

They also promised that bills will be initiated to make possible the meting out of heavy penalties to people who throw stones or Molotov cocktails.

Liberian President Doe Makes Secret Visit

TA251244 Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in Hebrew 24 Nov 83 p 7

[Report by Ari'el Kohen]

[Text] Jerusalem — The Liberian Head of State, Samuel Doe, recently paid a secret visit to Israel and met with senior sources in Jerusalem.

No publication was made of his visit or of the contents of his talks.

ALGERIA

Reportage on Meeting With PLO 'Fighters'

LD251117 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] A meeting was organized last night with the Palestinian fighters who were detained in the Al-Ansar camp and who arrived in Algeria yesterday. The following officials were in attendance: Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and director of the Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat; Boualem Bessaiah, minister of information; Bakhti Nemiche, minister of veterans; Sadiq as-Zuwaytim, in charge of the party's Department of Liberation Movements; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee; and a number of senior officers from the People's National Army.

Brother Messaadia welcomed the Palestinian fighters. The official in charge of the Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat, Hawatimah, Abu Iyad, and Salah (at-Ta'mari), head of the committee for the defense of the Al-Ansar prisoners, spoke at the meeting. They expressed determination to continue their fight until victory, regardless of the efforts and maneuvers made by reactionaries or the forces of U.S.-Zionist imperialism with the aim of fettering the Palestinian struggle.

After greeting our comrades-in-arms on behalf of the political leadership and in the name of all party militants — workers, farmers, soldiers, and officers — brother Messaadia made this comment: All the fighters in Algeria feel and sense what you feel and sense, because they have experienced similar tribulations; there are similarities between the sufferings endured by our two peoples. We were forcibly colonized and denied the right to life and self-identity, Brother Messaadia added: We tried every method to rid ourselves of colonialism, but were unsuccessful until we adopted the road of struggle. We told our Palestinian brothers at the beginning of the occupation that a single shot is worth one thousand demonstrations. The Palestinian people brought forth their revolution on the basis of this advice. Although this revolution has not yet liberated a single inch of Palestine, it has made great gains. It triumphed over the policy of deception and successfully established a Palestinian identity. It also managed to project the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Brother Messaadia stressed that plots are currently being hatched against these achievements with a view to dispersing and scattering the revolution and its followers. Revolutionary Algeria, which remains loyal to its principles, will tirelessly continue to back the Palestinian revolution and call for its freedom of decision and action. He added that the strength of imperialist and Zionist forces lies not in their military capabilities, but in our weakness. He noted that we are an Arab nation of sufficient geographical depth to serve as a deterrent, and described Algeria's independence as a gain for Algeria and for the entire Arab nation. The liberation of a single inch of Palestinian land will be a gain for the entire Arab nation. The Algerian revolution's support for the Palestinian revolution is not a matter of friendship or sympathy; it is a duty from which we expect neither reward nor thanks. French colonialism used to consider this Arab land as an indivisible part of France. It was once said that France's borders extended from Dunkirk to Tamanrasset, and that the FLN only understood the language of the gun. It was also said that the imbalance of forces would make our people's triumph impossible. The same excuses are being made to the Palestinian people today. So long as there is a will for liberation and a will to resist until victory, victory will inevitably be the ally of the Palestinian people.

Brother Messaadia concluded by renewing his welcome to the Palestinian fighters with the words: You are among brothers and are not guests. You are in your own home, and through you we salute all the fighters in Palestine and Lebanon. Glory and immortality to all the martyrs of the Arab nation!

Bendjedid Addresses Palestinians

LD262148 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Excerpts] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN, paid a surprise visit this afternoon to the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters at al-Kharrubah, who were welcomed to Algeria 2 days ago after being released from the Zionist enemy's detention camps.

The president of the republic was accompanied by brother members of the Political Bureau, Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani; Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, officer in charge of the party Central Committee Permanent Secretariat; and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi.

The president showed signs of emotion as he shook hands with a number of these fighters, who rushed forward to express their warm greetings. The brother president made a speech on this occasion.

[Begin Bendjedid recording] As a result of the Algerian people's determination, you are today in free and independent Algeria. Words cannot express what we, as Algerians, feel while seeing our brothers in this situation. This is a result of the position adopted by the Arab nation as displayed in its differences, peripheral issues, and lack of interest in the basic issue which concerns us all. Despite existing differences, we support and aid all the Arab nation's forces. The secret to the enemy's strength lies in our weakness. The Arab nation has great potential — both human and material — but has failed to take matters seriously. It failed to learn the lessons of the past, while the Israeli enemy learns from each clash and war with the Arab world. He corrects all his mistakes in order to avoid them in the next battle. He knows that the battle has not ended; it continues.

But we, the Arabs, have not learned the lessons of history. After each war with Israel we tend to return to peripheral issues and attempt to place responsibility on others. We have never made use of constructive criticism or self-criticism. We have never had the courage to examine our weaknesses so that we might put our affairs in order and work to confront the Israeli enemy and his

allies through other methods. The Arab nation possesses all the potential.

What is happening in Tripoli and elsewhere serves neither the interests of the Palestinian people nor the Palestinian revolution. It is not in the interest of the Arab states as a whole. In fact, we are doing a service to our enemies. [Words indistinct]. Wittingly or unwittingly, we are accomplishing what Israel failed to achieve in Beirut. This is our situation. We hope that our brother strugglers, fighters, and combatants will realize the crucial nature of the current period and rise to the level of events and history. Thank God, you have institutions. This has been proven. The Palestinian revolution has institutions which may well be more advanced than those of the independent Arab states. We refer to the democratic manner in which you solve your problems. You and your officials proved this at your meeting in Algiers.

I hope that the Palestinian brothers — particularly the officials — realize the danger that threatens the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people as a whole. They should rise to the level of events and history. As for Algeria, I affirm in the name of the Algerian people and in the name of the Algerian leadership, that we will always be on your side [applause] in all circumstances and at all times. We are on the side of the Palestinian revolution, its sons, and the PLO [applause] under the leadership of its officials, whose legitimacy — as far as Algeria is concerned — stems from the fact that they were democratically elected in Algeria.

We believe not in supporting individuals, but in supporting the independent Palestinian decision. [applause] We support the independent political Palestinian decision, the Palestinian revolution, and the Palestinian leadership. [applause] No Arab country has the right, regardless of the justification or excuses it may put forward, to be a trustee of the Palestinian revolution. The sons of the revolution are in a better position to know what is good for their cause. They are capable of this, and have proven it for many years. We are on your side. We are with you in good times and bad. We will continue to be on your side. We will never change. As a host country, we will not interfere in your political decisions. We will always be on your side. This is what all the Arab states should do. All Arab states should adopt this attitude, so that political decisions might be independent as far as the sons of the Palestinian revolution and the leadership of the PLO are concerned. [applause]

We salute you, and through you we salute all the Palestinian fighters in the occupied areas, in Lebanon and elsewhere, in the name of the Algerian people and political leadership. I will not forget the Syrian, Lebanese, and other brother fighters who fight beside you and were martyred for the sake of this fateful issue. I wish you all a pleasant stay among us and thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Bendjedid Receives DFLP Officials

LD261048 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Algiers, 26/11/83 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid, FLN secretary general, conferred with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member.

The two men accompanied the freed Palestinian prisoners who came to Algeria.

Bendjedid Receives Saudi Finance Minister

LD262232 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN, received Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rahman Aba al-Khayl, Saudi minister of finance and national economy, at the Presidential Palace this morning. The shaykh delivered a message from King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was attended by Boualem Benhamouda, member of the Political Bureau and minister of finance.

Loan Agreement Signed

LD271113 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Algiers, 27 Nov (APS) — Dr Boualem Benhamouda, member of the FLN Political Bureau and minister of finance, signed an agreement at noon on Saturday with Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, Saudi minister of finance and economy and chairman of the board of the Saudi Fund for Development. According to the provisions of the agreement, the Saudi Fund for Development will loan the Republic of Algeria 235.5 [as received] Algerian dinars, equivalent to 176.5 million Saudi riyals, to finance the Jijel port project.

This project, which is being financed by the International Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, will serve the iron and steel complex which is to be built in the region.

MOROCCO

King Hassan Meets With 'Arafat 'Adviser'

LD260805 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II received Mr Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah movement's Central Committee and political adviser to Mr 'Arafat, at the Royal Palace.

The meeting was also attended by Mr (Ahmed Ben Soudah), adviser to his majesty, and the PLO representative in Rabat, Mr Abu Marwan.

'Arafat Envoy Criticizes Syria

LD261824 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1611 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Rabat, 26 Nov (KUNA) — Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, told KUNA that his talks with Morocco's King Hassan II were largely devoted to a

study of how to activate the Jerusalem Committee and to a review of the current status of the 7-member committee, with the aim of making it take a political move.

Al-Hasan accused Syria of obstructing the work of the 7-member committee. He said in a comprehensive interview with KUNA's correspondent in Rabat that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue has resumed on new political bases. Al-Hasan revealed that an important, high-level U.S.-Israeli meeting will take place in Washington next Monday to draft a new U.S. strategy in the Middle East.

Concerning his talks with the Moroccan king, Hani al-Hasan noted that Morocco has played an important political role as the country which submitted the famous 1974 Rabat summit resolution, which announced that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. Morocco also had a part in the historic Fes summit resolutions of 1982. Its importance can also be seen in the fact that the Moroccan king chairs both the 7-member committee and the Jerusalem Committee. These two bodies are considered to be strategic by the PLO. That is why the enemies of the PLO are trying to defeat these two committees, despite the fact that they were formed with unanimous Arab and Islamic approval. Thus, the talks focused on ways to activate their political work during this important time.

Al-Hasan said: "I briefed the Moroccan king on recent developments concerning the Palestinian situation, and told him that what is happening in Tripoli is a conflict over Fatah and not within it. I also informed him there is an effort underway to control the Palestinian decision in the interests of another country. I also explained to him that the PLO is committed to the Palestine National Council resolutions concerning Jordan, which insist on the unity of the Jordanian and Palestinian people and on a united political future within a confederation. The PLO also insists on rejecting Reagan's initiative because it does not respond to the national rights of the Palestinian people. The Fes resolutions, on the other hand, do address these issues."

Al-Hasan added: "I asked the Moroccan king to channel all his authority into developing European and American positions aimed at achieving recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination."

Al-Hasan said the Moroccan king informed him of his country's moves vis-a-vis Europe and the United States.

On the question of the new basis for the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, Hani al-Hasan said: "Jordanian-Palestinian relations are a basic strategic issue of concern to the Palestinians and the Jordanians in the shadow of an Israeli-American option to solve the Middle East issue. This option seeks to establish an alternative homeland for the Palestinians outside Palestine. This would mean the final loss of Palestine. Thus, there is a principle which which links us to our brothers in Jordan: the defense of our common interests; that is, the fight against this dangerous option."

In reply to a question on the predicament of the 7-member committee, Hani al-Hasan said: "Syrian policy was what stopped the work of the 7-member committee. Their line of action is aimed at monopolizing political action on the Palestinian issue. Therefore, they paralyzed the committee. Since the committee's resolutions are adopted through agreement and not by majority, any member of the committee has the power to paralyze it. The truth is that the current conflict revolves around the Fes summit resolutions adopted in the name of independent national decision. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam wants to control the Palestinian decision. This is the truth behind the political battle which has been raging for a year now. It concerns this point. Were the Palestinians to agree tomorrow morning to allow their decisions to be taken from their own hands, all the problems facing Yasir 'Arafat and Fatah would be over by tomorrow evening."

Ethiopian Foreign Minister, OAU Head Arrive

LD261138 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Casablanca, 26 Nov (MAP) — Ethiopian Foreign Minister Wolde Goshu has arrived at Mohamed V Airport, accompanied by Acting OAU Secretary General Peter Onu, for a 2-day visit to Morocco.

The Ethiopian official said that he and the acting secretary general have been sent to discuss the situation in Western Sahara with their Moroccan brothers, and to exchange views with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco on the appropriate way to achieve a lasting solution to this issue on the basis of recent OAU resolutions. He added that their 2 days in Morocco will be devoted to discussions of the best way to fully implement the OAU resolutions and achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The two Africans were welcomed by Abdelhaq Tazi, Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs, and Ahmed Fizazi, governor of Greater Casablanca.

Bahraini Heir Apparent Ends Private Visit

LD261337 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] The Bahraini heir apparent, His Royal Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn 'Isa al Khalifah, left Morocco late this morning after ending his private visit to our country. He was seen off at Sala Airport by his royal highness the crown prince, Prince Sidi Mohamed, and a number of dignitaries.

SUDAN

Numayri Speaks to Newsmen in Washington

JN271215 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Washington, 27 Nov (SUNA) — President Numayri has said his talks with American officials had covered bilateral cooperation in the commercial, economic, political, military and cultural sphere and described these talks as very successful. Speaking to the Sudanese press towards the end of his official visit to the USA, the president said the U.S. was the only country in the world that provides real and unconditional assistance to developing nations. He said he had shared identical viewpoints with the and military topics discussed. [sentence as received]

Numayri said the U.S. works for realizing world peace and Sudan is doing the same thing particularly in East Africa and the Middle East.

In reply to a question from the daily *AS-SAHAFAH* the president reiterated his statement in the White House that Israel was the cause of the Middle East problems. He said he did not say that President Reagan has shared him this viewpoint.

He said his meeting with the pope in Rome had showed him that the pontiff understands Islam very well. The pope supports all measures taken to improve human behavior and to realize progress of man, said Numayri.

"I told the pope that Sudan recognizes all sacred religions and considers all believers, since the day of Abraham, as Moslems," he said. He said the pope did not show any opposition to Sudan's new legislations.

In reply to a question from SUNA President Numayri said the objective of his three-nation tour was to seek support to the Sudanese economy, particularly in the spheres of energy, transport and communications and training and to find support to the balance of payments. He said Sudan had presented to these countries ready feasibility studies in the different spheres. Details of these studies and projects would be discussed by Sudanese ministers and their counterparts in Italy, France and the USA, he said. He said Sudan had presented some projects for the production of hydroelectric power which were accepted by the said countries. Some of these countries have praised Sudan's oil prospection efforts and its associated projects such as the crude oil pipeline, he said. He said some programmes for training in the energy sphere were accepted. Numayri said small refinery projects would be set up to extract benzine, gasoline and other products. The energy and mining minister has put forward some projects for utilizing low production oil wells for the generation of electricity, he said. The Hamdab and Satit river dams have been presented to international financing institutions, he said.

"The Hamdab Dam will benefit both Sudan and Egypt and I have discussed this project with President Husni Mubarak" he said and added that some firms have agreed to invest in wheat production in the northern province. This firms believe that Sudan and Egypt would make good markets for this wheat whose total output is estimated at one million tonnes, he said.

"We have discussed this matter in the European countries I visited and in the U.S.," he said.

The question of Chad had had a lion's share of my talks with French officials and Sudan is concerned with Chad because it is a neighbour and has great effect on us, he said. He indicated the French army's role in halting friction between invading and government forces. He said he had proposed the holding of a round table conference to discuss the establishment of an interim council or government that leads to a type of government that meets aspirations of all Chadians. "This interim government should, at the same time, try to restore stability and security to Chad. This proposal had won French approval and we are now contacting all parties," he said.

He said he had sent a message in this concern to President Habre and had contacted some leaders belonging to the "so-called Goukouni government" who live in France who accepted the Sudanese proposal. "I told them that Sudan was ready to host the meeting and would never interfere in their discussions," he said. He said he had proposed the establishment of a decentralized type of government in Chad.

The president indicated that "individual opposition" existing in the governing institutions reflects a high degree of democratic maturity that could enable these institutions to successfully tackle serious issues in the absence of the president of the republic and without the interference of the presidency as was evident in the recent events in the south.

Referring to these events the president said that the French were scared upon hearing the abduction of French citizens working at Jonglei canal.

He pointed out that the French company undertaking the execution of Jonglei project was insistent not to receive government protection prior to the abduction. He added that the French Government asked him not to adopt severe measures with regard to the freeing of hostages. However, the president said, "we assured them we could free them without fulfilling the conditions put forward by the outlaws and the hostages returned within 72 hours time." The president explained that the dissidents were actually aiming at occupying a district and establishing a government but a company positioned there had foiled their plans.

The president said that in the wake of the recent events the armed forces still undergo organizational modernization and the air force will receive special attention in order to improve deployment capability. On his recent appeal to the Soviet Union to play an active role in the peace process in the Middle East the president point out that the Soviet Union was the world power second to the United States if notequal to it and it managed to secure a foothold in the region. He added that however subversive and war provocative the Soviet policy was peace and stability in the world and particularly in the Middle East should be maintained. [sentence as received]

The president said that Syria and Libya were playing subversive roles on behalf of the Soviets who were also undermining the efforts of the multinational forces in Lebanon.

"As an Arab leader from the Middle East call on this state (the Soviet Union) to join the peace procession," the president said. [sentence as received]

The president warned that the lull on the Chadian front would not last for long.

He said that the Soviet-advocated strategy worked out in Aden, South Yemen, and currently implemented by Libya and Ethiopia was meant to back the Soviet overall strategy against the United States of America through the creation of small wars in different areas to divert the world attention from Soviet involvements in other trouble-ridden areas like Afghanistan. Libya and Ethiopia have fallen in the trap of this policy, the president added.

The president explained that Libya had exploited the meagre economic situation in Ethiopia and pressed it to accept great numbers of Libyans and Libyan agents in order to train some sons of Sudanese tribes and send them back home to undertake planned subersive acts. The president said that Libya which is a Muslim and an Arab country, is tailoring anti-Arab and anti-Islam lies so that it could realize its objectives in the south. He explained that Libya was publicizing among southerners that the north is preparing to Islamize and rule the south.

Regarding Ethiopia the president said that the government there wrongly believes that we disintegrate its unity by means of helping the Eritreans, Tigrai and other tribes fighting in Ethiopia. Sudan is a peace-lover and in this connection I invited Mengistu to visit Sudan to ease Soviet and Libyan pressure upon him and help him for his independent viewpoint," the president added. The president pointed out that Mengistu was backing one African country against another African country which is incompatible with the trust laid upon him by the Africans and with his present continental status as chairman of the Organisation of African Unity.

On the Ethiopian troops deployment along its borders with Sudan the president said that it was not the first time that Ethiopia lines troops along the Sudanese borders. He added that it was an old tactic of the Libyan and Ethiopian presidents. Whenever they feel mounting pressure of internal problems they swiftly open an external front in order to divert attention and unify their ranks against an unfounded external danger, he said. The president warned that the Sudan was overlookng those provocative actions. "But," he added, "we are ready to risk war if the other sides insist."

Military Commander Affirms Control of Upper Nile

JN261857 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, Nov. 26 (SUNA) — The People's Armed Forces are completely in control over the situation in Upper Nile region, Deputy Chief Commander of the People's Armed Forces General 'Abd ar-Rahman Suwar adh-Dhahab announced here today. Following a meeting with First Vice-President Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, Suwar adh-Dhahab stated that he has acquainted him with the results of a 1-day visit he payed to the Upper Nile region last Thursday.

TUNISIA

Two New Ministers Named in Cabinet Reshuffle

LD252344 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba spoke with Prime Minister Mr Mohamed Mzali this morning. Mr Habib Bourguiba, special adviser to the president, was also in attendance. After the meeting, Mr Mohamed Mzali made this statement:

His excellency the president has decreed the following cabinet reshuffle: Mr Sadok Ben Jomaa is appointed minister of public works in place of Mr Mohamed Sayah [words indistinct], and Mr Brahim Khouadja is appointed minister of transport and communications.

DJIBOUTI

Foreign Minister Meets With Egyptian Delegation

EA260027 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] An Egyptian delegation led by Mr Salih (Baslum), director of the Political Office of the Foreign Ministry, arrived today for a brief visit to the Republic of Djibouti. The leader of the Egyptian delegation held cordial talks this morning with the Republic of Djibouti's minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Mr Moumin Bahdon Farah, and delivered a message from Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. The contents of message have not been disclosed. The Egyptian delegation returned home today via Addis Ababa. Mr Salih (Baslum), head of the Egyptian delegation, visited the Republic of Djibouti earlier in October this year.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Receives Message From Moroccan King

EA252210 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam today received a message from King Hassan II of Morocco. The message was delivered to Comrade Chairman Mengistu by Mr Abdallah ben Ali, minister in the office of the Moroccan monarch.

SOMALIA

Defense Minister Returns From Italy, Comments

EA231233 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 2045 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Excerpt] SDR First Vice President and Minister of Defense Lieutenant General Mohammed Ali Samantar and his delegation returned to Somalia today at the end of their Italian tour as the guest of Italian Minister of Defense Giovanni Spadolini. Interviewed at the Mogadishu airport VIP lounge on his arrival, Challe Samantar said during his visit to Italy he held talks with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, Foreign Minister Andreotti, Defense Minister Spadolini, and other Italian Government officials. Challe Samantar said their talks centered on bilateral relations and cooperation in the spheres of political, economic, defense, social and cultural relations. Challe Samantar added that he discussed with the Italian leaders matters related to international affairs, the Horn of Africa problem, the Lebanese crisis, and ways of settling these problems. The leaders shared identical views on all matters discussed. Challe Samantar delivered messages from the SDR president to Italian Prime Mininster Craxi and other Italian leaders.

TANZANIA

Kenyan Cooperation Talks Open in Arusha 24 Nov

EA242301 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Arusha — The friendly cooperation meeting following the reopening of the Tanzanian-Kenyan border opened formally in Arusha this afternoon. The meeting is the first of its kind to be held between senior government officials from the two governments since the border was reopened a week ago. The minister of home affairs, Ndugu Salimin Amour, who is leading a 34-member Tanzanian delegation, opened the meeting this afternoon. The 24-member Kenyan delegation is led by the minister of state in the President's Office, Mr Ole Tipis.

Agenda Approved; Meeting Ends

EA252335 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Arusha — The 2-day ministrial meeting between Tanzania and Kenya ended today in Arusha after agreeing on a 10-point agenda which included matters pertaining to order, security, and cooperation. The agenda was submitted yesterday to the Kenyan delegation by Tanzania. Briefing newsmen after the meeting during the afternoon, the principal secretary in the President's Office, Ndugu Timothy Apiyo, said the points included the opening of liaison offices in the two countries, repatriation of unwanted persons, and interstate meetings between ministries, regional heads, officials, and security organs. Ndugu Apiyo said the meeting, held behind closed doors, agreed that experts should meet shortly to work out ways and means of implementing the solutions for the problems listed in the agenda. The Kenyan delegation, led by the minister in the President's Office, Mr Ole Tipis, left for home during the afternoon.

Ugandan Border Talks Conclude in Bukoba 27 Nov

EA271854 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Bukoba — A 2-day good-neighborly meeting between leaders from four regions along the Tanzanian-Ugandan border ended today in Bukoba town. The meeting, which brought together leaders from Mbarara and Rakai regions on the Ugandan side and Bukoba and Karagwe from the Tanzanian side, discussed among other thingstrade, defense, and security matters between the regions. The meeting, presided over by the chairman of Mbarara region, Ndugu (Liwa Ndikora), agreed that illegal border markets should be disbanded so as to reduce smuggling between the two countries. The meeting also stressed that currencies from both countries should not be taken across the border at random in contravention of regulations, an act that could affect the economies of these countries. The meeting called on police commanders of the four regions to meet and plan how to deal with crimes committed through the use of arms. On cattle rustling, the meeting agreed that all livestock in the regions should be branded with special marks to easily identify it when stolen and taken across the border to neighboring countries.

CHAD

AFP: Habre Denounces Corruption in Government

AB251550 Paris AFP in French 0820 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 25 Nov (AFP) — At a ministerial council meeting yesterday in Ndjamena, the Chadian Government made a severe self-criticism of the administration and noted that the "enthusiasm and rigor with which it started have given way to sourness and laxity," a statement issued at the end of the meeting indicated. President Hissein Habre remarked to the members of the government that corruption, misappropriation, and absenteeism have returned to the country, adding that these are "unpatriotic practices which have marked the Chadian administration for too long." The head of state then asked the members of the government and state officials to be more rigorous.

Former Opponents Reportedly Rally Behind Habre

AB251600 Paris AFP in French 1525 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 25 Nov (AFP) — Soldiers opposed to the Chadian Government have just rallied "massively" behind the central authorities, the Chadian minister of information, Soumaila Mahamat, told AFP on Thursday without, however, specifying their number. The Chadian minister stated that these men, who were operating in the south where they claimed responsibility for certain acts of rebellion, were in possession of "a large number of new arms supplied to them by Libya." Soumaila Mahamat added that the rallying points "are the principal regions of the south affected by the troubles," especially in the region of Doba. It will be recalled that an official communique indicated in Ndjamena that "patriotic" officers had facilitated contacts between the Chadian Government and armed men who were hiding in the bush. According to Ndjamena authorities, the rallying of these soldiers behind the central authorities is the result of the "positive response to the government campaign for national reconciliation launched in the southern part of Chad a few weeks ago."

Bardai: GUNT Statement Welcomes OAU Initiative

AB251935 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Statement from the Office of the President of the Transitional National Union Government of Chad issued in Tripoli on 25 November]

[Text]Comrade Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government of Chad [GUNT]and head of state, accompanied by Colonel Kamougue, vice president of GUNT, and other faction leaders during a visit to Tripoli met the mission sent by His Excellency Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, current chairman of the OAU, a mission comprising the Ethiopian foreign minister and the acting secretary general of the OAU. The GUNT has welcomed the initiative taken by the current OAU chairman to convene a meeting on 23 December 1983 in Addis Ababa between the GUNT and its constituent parts and the Northern Armed Forces, led by the traitor Hissein Habre, for a peaceful settlement of the Chadian conflict. The principle of direct negotiation between the GUNT and the FAN is the only way to put an end to the destruction of Chad provoked by Hissein Habre's rebellion against the legitimate authorities of Chad and the invasion of our country by the imperialist and reactionary group. The GUNT reaffirms its readiness to pursue its contacts with the chairman and secretary general of the pan-African organization to establish the modalities for the participation of the various Chadian parties involved in the conflict.

Issued in Tripoli on 25 November 1983.

Bardai Says FAN Preparing Massive Attack in North

AB280940 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Is the good will shown these past days by the FAN reactionary forces really sincere? Several concordant reports announce massive preparations for a large-scale attack which will be launched on the eve of the upcoming negotiations, as a repetition of the blow which was dealt to the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] forces during the negotiations held in Franceville, Gabon. In fact, as we reported in our previous casts, the national annihilation forces are getting ready to play double or nothing by launching, with considerable U.S. assistance and support, a massive attack against the National Liberation Army positions in the north with the view to recapturing all the territories they have lost. According to our permanent correspondent in Ndjamena, the antinational forces have brought back cannon fodder from Zaire, and its strength is estimated at over 4,000 conscripted men, who have just received accelerated training in Zaire. At present, the FAN is bringing together all its fighters including the fresh mercenaries who flew in (?from Zaire) via the CAR and southern Chad. All these men will be placed under Israeli officers who have come for this purpose. Moussoro and Abeche have been chosen as the places to mass troops. Meanwhile, troops from Sudan and Egypt are now stationed at (Rapegou) and (Zoudelfith) and will soon join the others before the operations are launched. Our correspondent specifies that 3 jeeps equipped with land-to-air missiles and 10 tanks left Ndjamena on 17 November 1983 to cross Niger and attack Zouar. The other troops will be split into two columns. The first column will leave Moussoro, go along the Gouradi trail, and attack Fada, Ounianga, and Gourou. The second column in conjunction with Sudanese and Egyptian elements will leave Abeche to attack Faya-Largeau and Bardai. In this connection, we wish to recall that this method is neither new to the Chadian people nor to international opinion as they know that the rebel leader resorted to such a method during the negotiations that took place in Franceville, Gabon. This fait accompli embarrassed all the participants in the meeting after they had offered their good offices for the success of the meeting. The GUNT forces are prepared to oppose with the greatest energy any attack against their positions however imposing the attack may be. The GUNT wants to (?remind) France of its responsibility if it encourages such an undertaking by the United States, the consequences of which would be incalculable. The OAU should take every measure to deal with this new development which might (?jeopardize) the situation.

GHANA

Envoy in Liberia Returns Home Following Expulsion

AB260735 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Ghana Embassy in Monrovia, Mr Peter Sackey, has returned to Accra following his expulsion by the Liberian authorities.

In a statement Mr Peter Sackey said no reasons were given for his expulsion and there is no justification for him to be even remotely connected with any attempt to overthrow the Samuel Doe regime. He said the Soviet ambassador to Liberia, who was also expelled, was not even in Monrovia at the time of the expulsion order. The Ghana Government has already issued a statement critical of the Liberian Government's decision.

In the meantime, the Soviet Union has ordered the Liberian ambassador to Moscow, Mr Christopher Ricks, to leave in retaliation for the expulsion of the Soviet ambassador to Liberia.

Rawlings Says People Should Correct PDC Wrongs

AB260845 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has questioned the inability of the majority of the people to check the wrongs of People's Defense Committee [PDC] executives themselves but have to wait for the government to dissolve such defense committees. [sentence as heard]

Addressing a solidarity rally organized by the June 4 Movement in Takoradi yesterday, Chairman Rawlings declared, the inability of the people to correct the wrongs of the PDCs is a crime in the first order. He said the defense committee concept is to give the people the right to defend their freedom to create and to protect what they have created. Ghanaians must therefore measure the use of their newly won power in terms of productivity.

Flight Lt Rawlings noted that Ghanaians have not been able to ensure higher productivity because of poor maintenance of equipment, poor skills, and pilfering of spare parts. He said a revolution means giving birth to a high sense of productivity and efficiency.

Flight Lt Rawlings paid glowing tribute to farmers and fishermen, adding that if the urban dwellers could have the nobility and commitment of the rural dwellers, the country can move faster toward progress.

He said with the workers' participation in decision-making, top personnel cannot wholly be blamed for mismanagement in workplaces. He said there are still traces of negligence and connivance in stealing at all levels of activity. Chairman Rawlings said the time has come for Ghanaians to re-examine and re-assess their contribution to the revolution.

Botchway Pleased With Donor Conference

AB260810 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] The secretary for finance and economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, has expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the second donor conference on Ghana in Paris. He said the $150 million pledged for Ghana for the first year of her economic recovery program is more than Ghana had estimated. Speaking to the BBC, Dr Botchway said Ghana did not in the real sense make any concession to get the pledge. She, however, got the support because of the good program that the Provisional National Defense Council had drawn up for the recovery of the nation's economy.

Dr Botchway said the government is taking the right measures. It is providing incentives to producers and reviving the export sector. On the devaluation and the assertion by the some people that Ghana's economy is in the pockets of the IMF, Dr Botchway explained that opposition to the devaluation is what he called mere political [as heard] and by some disgruntled people who, after looting the country's resources, try to rally opposition against the government.

He said the people are not deceived by this. The secretary was optimistic that with time Ghana would be able to develop a self-reliant and integrated national economy, adding that it should be able to feed itself in due course. He said, with the aid, Ghana's balance of payment deficit is expected to fall from $234 million this year to $60 million in 1984.

GUINEA

Equatorial Guinea President Arrives in Conakry

AB261405 Paris AFP in French 1324 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Dakar, 26 Nov (AFP) — The head of state of Equatorial Guinea, Colonel Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, arrived in Conakry early Saturday afternoon for an official friendly visit to Guinea, according to Radio Conakry monitored in Dakar. Col Obiang Nguema was welcomed on arrival by Guinea head of state Ahmed Sekou Toure.

LIBERIA

Expulsion of Ambassador From Moscow Reported

AB271250 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] The Soviet Union Government has expelled the Liberian ambassador to Moscow, Mr Christopher Ricks.

It is believed that Mr Ricks' expulsion is in retaliation for Liberia's expulsion of the Soviet ambassador last Tuesday. The Soviet ambassador was ordered last Tuesday, along with the Ghanaian charge d'affaires, to leave Liberia, and the government explained that their activities were incompatible with their diplomatic status and that the decision was being taken to preserve the cordial relations between Liberia and the Soviet Union and

Ghana. The two diplomats were expelled 1 day after the People's Redemption Council Government uncovered a coup plot which was to receive the support of a foreign mission in Liberia.

Herring Talks to Journalists About Planned Coup

AB251625 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Captain Johnny Herring, former bodyguard to the former Commanding General Thomas Quiwonkpa, has denied naming what he called officials of government accused of a coup plot even though he said these officials of government had frequently visited the former commanding general.

He confirmed that he had freely and specifically reported that Mr Mohammed Wimpeer, one of the accused, had indicated that the Russians were ready to assist in the coup with ammunition, drugs, and troops.

Speaking to journalists at the National Security Agency yesterday, Capt Johnny Herring said he was afraid of losing his life and therefore reported the matter to the national security. Private Paul Tuah and Lieutenant Victor Togba said they decided to break away from the alleged plotters. Pvt Tuah said that all of those accused were so far actually involved in the plot. Four of those accused denied any knowledge of the coup attempt. PRC [People's Revolutionary Council] adviser Moses Duopo, Mr Harry Yuon, Mr Willie Dullie, and Assistant Agricultural Minister Major Kolonko Luo said they had never connived with anyone to overthrow the government.

Ex-Officer Says General Killed in Nimba

AB252130 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] More details are emerging about the reported coup plot. An ex-Army officer, (Bossor Fahnpeh), reported today that the former director of staff in the Armed Forces of Liberia, General Robert D. Say, was shot and killed in the town of former Commanding General Thomas Quiwonkpa in Nimba County. (Fahnpeh) said the general was killed when Quiwonkpa and his troops were awaiting Gen Robert Say. Ex-Officer (Fahnpeh) said the former commanding general asked for Robert Say but while en route about 0000, he was shot by Quiwonkpa's bodyguard, who could not identify Mr Say.

Suspects Say General Quiwonkpa Ordered Raid

AB261225 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Two suspects arrested by Liberian security men in connection with last Monday's shooting incident in Yekepa, Nimba County, said they carried out the raid with the aim of capturing the Yekepa bank. Captain Akoo Dolo of the Armed Forces of Liberia, and a former Army officer, Bosco Asintwa, reported in separate statements that the former local government deputy minister, Samuel Dokye, led the attack. The two men said the operations were carried oul upon the orders of former general commanding general, Thomas Quiwonkpa. In the raid last Monday, 4 persons were killed and 2 seriously injured. The National Security Agency in Monrovia is investigating the shooting incident.

Government Orders Quiwonkpa To Report to NSA

AB271215 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] The former commanding general, Thomas G. Quiwonkpa, has been given 48 hours to give himself up to the National Security Agency or the nearest police station in connection with his alleged involvement in the attempt to overthrow the People's Redemption Council Government. The government's statement also ordered that Mr Sam Dokie and former Superintendent Joseph Farngalo to report to the nearest police station for interrogation. The statement indicated that those wanted have been given 48 hours to turn themselves in to government or a vigorous search will be instituted to find them. The government has called on the public and all others to get the fullest cooperation in this respect.

Information Minister Dismisses Two Editors

AB252130 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] The editor-in-chief of the government-owned *NEW LIBERIAN* newspaper, Mr Rufus Dafur, and Assistant Editor-in-Chief J. Blamo Roberson have been dismissed by Information Minister Dr Peter Naigow. Minister Naigow said the dismissal of the editors was due to their failure to take their moral, political, and social responsibilities as editors of the paper and to double-check information which does not reflect the image and policy of the Government of Liberia. Minister Naigow further said the editors sought to [word indistinct] editorial content incompatible with government's policy with authorities of the ministry thereby causing great embarassment to government.

NIGER

Kountche, Carstens Banquet Toasts Reported

AB270805 Paris AFP in French 1008 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Niamey, 26 Nov (AFP) — On Friday evening in Niamey, Niger, head of state General Seyni Kountche called for the "structural reform of the totally outdated world economic order" at a banquet hosted in honor of FRG President Karl Carstens who has been on a 2-day official visit to Niger since Thursday. To "protect our planet from a new tragedy," it is necessary to enhance "the ideal of cooperation in a qualitative manner and to materialize it through concrete moves," Gen Kountche said during the exchange of toasts. For the Niger president, who paid tribute particularly to the FRG for its assistance to "the food security of our people," the "already magnificent and prosperous" cooperation between the two countries can only be continued because the two countries "share the same views on the future of the world." President Kountche reaffirmed his country's determination to remove the obstacles to efforts for African

solutions to "the conflicts that are tearing apart the peoples of Africa."

In this connection, he spoke of the Chadian crisis and the situation in Namibia and in Palestine. Then he stressed the urgent need to "step up actions and initiatives aimed at changing our world into a more human world." In his reply, President Carstens first assured his Niger counterpart that in spite of the world recession, the FRG would continue "to help its friends," especially Niger, where the FRG assistance "has found favorable conditions." The FRG president, who held the view that Europe and Africa were natural partners, referred to the Lome Convention which links the EEC with African and Caribbean countries, and which is being renegotiated at present. President Carstens expressed the belief that "the world wants an autonomous and strong Africa" and called on the parties concerned in Chad to "respect the OAU Charter at last." He reiterated his condemnation of the policy of apartheid and pledged his country's commitment to Namibia's independence. However, the FRG president said, for Europe to contribute to Africa's peaceful development and prosperity, Europeans must absolutely maintain stability in Europe in conjunction with the United States and Canada and safeguard peace there.

(?Mr Carstens will visit) the hydro-agricultural project financially sponsored by the European Development Fund, then the Goudel pumping station on the Niger River built with his country's financial assistance. In the afternoon he will leave his Niger host for home after inviting him to an official visit to the FRG.

NIGERIA

Dispute With Cameroon Expected To Be Resolved

AB251620 Paris AFP in English 1514 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 25 (AFP) — Nigeria expects to be able to resolve its latest border dispute with Cameroon, with which Nigeria has had "ups and downs," Foreign Minister Emeka Anyaoku said here today. The Nigerian minister, in New Delhi for the Commonwealth summit, was commenting on an incident in which soldiers from Cameroon reportedly invaded and took over a number of villages in the southeastern Cross Rivers State on November 10. "We've always been able to sort it our before," Mr Anyaoku said. Regarding a border incident earlier this year which erupted between Chad and Nigeria in the Lake Chad region, Mr Anyaoku said that both Ndjamena and Lagos were now "satisfied" with the outcome.

Commentary on Return of Illegal Aliens

AB251320 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Ndele Kuku commentary]

[Text] It was early this year that the Western media, on pretentious humanitarian grounds but with diabolical intent, unleashed a campaign of calumny against Nigeria when illegal aliens residing in this country were asked to leave. This blackmail notwithstanding, Nigeria stuck to its guns that illegal aliens must go since the country had not violated any international law. But this was more so as Nigerians were convinced that these illegal aliens were preying on the country's economy, for they trooped into this country in large numbers only to displace our people in the labor market and compounded our security problem by engaging in nefarious activities.

After all, Nigeria reserves the right to protect its own interests. However, the government was widely commended at home for its decisive stand on the matter despite the overreaction of the foreign media to the issue. There are indications at present that those deported aliens are gradually trekking back into the country and the reasons for this are not farfetched. Most of them who returned home true to their conscience, found their countries in a worse state than it was when they left.

Food and basic consumer items remained scarce while the hope of getting a job is nil. Hence, the desperate ones among them have decided to take a chance by returning to this country illegally. There is no doubt that most of these illegal aliens view Nigeria as the El Dorado of West Africa with abundant economic opportunities. But Nigerians, who know very well the economic troubles that their country is passing through as a result of the global economic recession, have to resist this.

[Words indistinct] these categories of illegal aliens are prepared to receive wages that are unacceptable to most employable Nigerians and deprive our people of their legitimate right for employment in their country. Also the social hardship that Nigerians have suffered as a result of the unwanted presence of these illegal aliens is incalculable.

Our public utilities which are usually congested especially in the urban centers are now on the verge of collapse due to their misuse by these illegal aliens.

Prices of essential commodities are now soaring tremendously again due to the sharp economic practice of these groups of aliens, who come in many numbers to buy these items in bulk and sneak them back to their own countries where they are in dire need.

And since our economy is not yet in a state of bouyancy as to accomodate the economic problems of other countries, we can therefore not afford to justify or tolerate the return of illegal aliens.

The government therefore must remain firm in its commitment to ensure that our immigration laws are not trampled on by those who are only bent on giving us more economic and social problems with their presence in this country. For most of these aliens look on Nigeria as an easy prey in a world ravished by economic recession.

We welcome foreigners with genuine mission. But by keeping illegal aliens out of this country, Nigeria is not doing anything contrary.

It is the standard immigration practice for people to have the necessary authorization before moving from one country to the other. Nigeria cannot afford to be an exception.

UPPER VOLTA

Cooperation Commission To Be Set Up With Togo

AB252030 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Togo and Upper Volta have decided to set up a joint cooperation commission to strengthen our links in the economic and cultural fields. A document to this effect was drawn up in Lome during the 2-day visit made by Comrade Arba Diallo, our minister of foreign affairs. This document will later be signed by our two heads of state of Togo and Upper Volta. This joint cooperation commission will hold an ordinary session once a year alternatively in Lome and Ouagadougou, or an extraordinary session at the request of one of the two partners. Comrade Arba Diallo, who held long discussions with President Eyadema, emphasized that he was in Lome to explain the orientation of the Upper Volta revolution.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Receives Upper Voltan Official, Message

AB251240 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] President Jose Eduardo dos Santos yesterday received in audience Blaise Compaore, member of the National Revolutionary Council and minister of state to the presidency of the Republic of Upper Volta. He delivered a personal message to President dos Santos from his Upper Voltan counterpart, Thomas Sankara. In Captain Sankara's message, he expressed the solidarity of the Upper Voltan people with the people of Angola following the undeclared war imposed on it by racist South Africa. Mr Compaore examined in detail with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos the various possibilities for the development of relations between his country and the People's Republic of Angola. Mr Compaore stated yesterday in Luanda during a press conference that the People's Vigilance Brigades constitute a very good area of development of cooperation between Angola and Upper Volta.

Minister Warns Against Portuguese Aid to UNITA

AB270745 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Economic relations between Angola and Portugal could deteriorate next year if Lisbon does not make the necessary efforts to stop the subversive activities directed against Angola by UNITA bandits on Portuguese territory.

The statement was made by Angolan Planning Minister Lopo do Nascimento in an interview granted to the Portuguese daily *O JORNAL* yesterday. It is completely intolerable that at a time when Portugal (?pledges) its determination to strengthen its ties with Angola, Portuguese authorities should give the green light to the puppet gangs to hold a meeting in Lisbon and organize activities aimed at jeopardizing Angola's sovereignty, Lopo do Nascimento stated.

It should be recalled that in another interview with the *O JORNAL* special correspondent in Luanda, the Angolan minister of planning said that the lack of [word indistinct] and increased financial means were hampering the implementation of major economic projects.

Official Reiterates Stand on Multinational Force

MB260732 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Venancio de Moura, deputy minister of foreign affairs, said yesterday that the People's Republic of Angola rejects all proposals which are designed to replace the Cuban troops in its territory with a multinational force.

Venancio de Moura, who was speaking to the national media following a number of recent reports that yet another attempt was being made at the Commonwealth meeting to give international recognition to a proposal for the creation of multinational force to replace the Cuban internationalists in Angola, said that this idea can only be regarded as yet another attempt to resuscitate a corpse — the linkage policy — which has been condemned by the international community as a whole. After recalling the sour experiences of the so-called multinational forces in Chad and Lebanon, Venancio de Moura said that they should be used to impose legality where it does not exist, as is the case in Namibia. The withdrawal of Cuban internationalist forces from Angola is a well-known issue.

Angola demands the fulfillment of four essential conditions; namely, the unconditional withdrawal of the South African forces which occupy a part of Angolan territory, the end of South African aggression against Angola, the cessation of all material and military support to UNITA by South Africa, and the implementation — without delay — of UN Resolution 435 which will lead Namibia to legal independence.

FAPLA Kills 34 UNITA Members in Bie, Benguela

MB251447 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 24 Nov 83

[Text] UNITA counterrevolutionary gangs continue to suffer heavy defeats inflicted by the Angolan Army. Thus, a further 34 bandits were annihilated by the combatants of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] during operations carried out in Bie and Benguela Provinces while the Angolan people were celebrating yet another anniversary of their independence.

A total of 45 civilians who had been detained by UNITA were released, and about 90 head of cattle that had been stolen from the peasants by the puppets were recovered. FAPLA forces also destroyed 75 enemy huts. An assortment of materiel and military equipment were also captured.

AFP: UNITA Issues Warning, Demands Dialogue

AB251555 Paris AFP in French 1303 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Lisbon, 25 Nov (AFP) — UNITA, the armed movement opposed to the Angolan regime, has issued a warning to the Luanda authorities demanding that they open a dialogue before next March, otherwise "the last round of a fierce physical fight" will be launched.

In a communique reaching AFP in Lisbon on Friday, UNITA, which is led by Jonas Savimbi, adds that the MPLA (the ruling party in Luanda) "must consider the dialogue in a realistic manner or else face the inevitable."

UNITA proclaims its readiness to take part in "free elections in Angola under the supervision of the United Nations and the OAU."

"The MPLA needed the assistance of Cuban mercenaries when it realized that it would lose elections if they were authorized," the communique further says.

The text states that the MPLA "is not qualified to call for free elections in Namibia." UNITA also holds the Luanda authorities responsible for the deadlocked negotiations on Namibian independence.

UNITA Communique Claims Airliner Downing

MB280708 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Communique issued by the chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola at the UNITA Central Base on 9 November 1983]

[Text] During the first week of UNITA's offensive against the Russians, Cubans, and the MPLA the following results have been achieved:

On 5 November 1983 a MIG-21 was shot down near (Pedra da Cuca) 5 km from Huambo. The pilot was burned to death. At 2300 on 6 November 1983 an incendiary bomb was placed on the ground floor of the Saratoga Confeccoes e Modas [Garments and Fashion] Building situated at Rua Vasco da Gama, Luanda causing extensive damage. On 7 November 1983 a train carrying Cuban troops and People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] forces was attacked on the Matete-Cacolo stretch near Malanje. The ambush was launched with the aid of remote-controlled land mines. A total of 112 people were killed and large quantities of war materiel captured. At 1500 on 8 November 1983 a special command group shot down a Boeing 737 carrying recruits and a company of the 3d Motorized Brigade from Lubango to Luanda. All the FAPLA soldiers and crew were burned to death.

The struggle triumphs! United we will win!

UNITA Central Base, Angola on 9 November 1983, year of the anti-Cuban campaign.

[Signed] Brigadier Demostenes Amos Chilingutila, chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola

MADAGASCAR

Official Discusses Cooperation With Soviet Envoy

MB251358 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 1030 GMT 21 Nov 83

[Text] The Supreme Council of Revolution [words indistinct] received this morning the Soviet ambassador to Madagascar, His Excellency Mr Leonid Musatov. The relations of friendship and cooperation between Madagascar and the Soviet Union were cited. In the field of education, for example, the two officials recalled the presence of many Malagasy youth in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Ambassador hailed the efforts of the Malagasy president and the Malagasy revolution toward the restoration of world peace. Mr Leonid Musatov discussed the possibilities of increasing cooperation between the two countries and stressed the determination of the Soviet and Malagasy Governments in their national reconstruction program.

MOZAMBIQUE

Information Minister Returns From W. Europe Visit

MB261300 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] Mozambique's information minister, Jose Luis Cabaco, returned to Maputo yesterday after a visit to Holland and Portugal. In Holland, Mr Cabaco attended a congress organized by Dutch solidarity and support groups. In Portugal he held talks with the assistant minister of state to the prime minister, Almeida Santos, on social communication, and he toured the state radio and television studios. The visit raised the possibility of cooperation between Mozambique and Portugal in the technical field and in training of personnel.

Health Minister Departs for Havana Meeting

MB281024 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 28 Nov 83

[Text] Pascoal Mucumbi, member of the Frelimo Party Central Committee and minister of health, left for Havana on Saturday on an official visit to Cuba at the invitation of his counterpart, Sergio del Valle Jimenez. While in Havana the Mozambique minister of health will take part in the annual meeting of ministers of health of socialist countries, which will begin on 8 December.

NAMIBIA

10 Killed, 6 Injured in Land Mine Blast

MB270650 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] Ten civilians are reported killed in one of the worst incidents in the Namibian bush war. A statement issued by the South-West African Territory Force Headquarters in Windhoek says the 10 were killed and 6 others seriously injured when a vehicle detonated 2 SWAPO-laid land mines yesterday. The explosions apparently happened on a road east of Ruacana in western Ovambo. The statement says in another incident SWAPO guerrillas bayoneted to death an Ovambo citizen in northern Namibia on Thursday. Commenting on the incidents, the statement says, in its words, the two incidents are typical of the cowardly manner in which SWAPO is attempting to coerce the local population to support its cause.

SWAPO 'Atrocities' To Increase

MB270850 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 27 Nov 83

[Text] The headquarters of the South-West Africa Territory Force in Windhoek says that SWAPO atrocities against the civilian population will increase in the weeks ahead as the annual campaign to attempt to infiltrate terrorists into the country draws closer. SWAPO tries to slip insurgents across the border from Angola once the first good rains of the season have provided more

cover in the bush and replenished the waterholes. Eleven civilians have been killed in Ovambo during the past 3 days. Ten of them died when the vehicle they were travelling in detonated a powerful land mine to the east of Ruacana. The incident is described as one of the worst in SWAPO's 17 years of attacks on the civilian population. The 11th victim was a man bayoneted to death in an incident in central Ovambo.

SOUTH AFRICA

Commander Discusses Passage of Soviet Task Force

MB251154 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1038 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] Cape Town, Nov 25, SAPA — A Soviet naval task force with a total complement of about 2,360 men should pass Cape Town at about midnight tonight, Southern Air Command announced in Cape Town today. Journalists were flown out to the task force today. The ships were spotted near the mouth of the Orange River, about 80 nautical miles out to sea sailing at about 17 knots due south.

Brigadier Tom Stegeman, commanding officer Southern Air Command, described the task force as "potent and probably fully armed" and "much bigger than the normal shows of strength in the Indian Ocean." Brigadier Stegeman emphasised however that the Russian ships did not hold any threat for South Africa. They are well off the coast and were being shadowed by the Air Force and the Navy.

The four ships — the aircraft carrier Novoroissiysk, the frigate Poryvistyy, the amphibious landing craft Aleksandr Nikolayev and the cruiser Nikolayev — were first spotted on Wednesday 100 miles west of Walvis Bay by a patrolling Albatross reconnaissance aircraft. Yesterday the ships were located 80 miles north-west of Luderitz, and today they were south of Alexander Bay.

Brigadier Stegeman said the Soviet naval group was most probably being used in a show of strength after setbacks in Afghanistan, Angola, and Mozambique. He was of the opinion that the ships had called at Luanda and were now on their way to Mozambique. "The task force will probably show the flag in the Indian Ocean as well," he said. "The show of force can be interpreted as an effort to regain the momentum which was lost after the United States success in Grenada. The communists have stretched their resources too far to be really credible. Therefore this task force is nothing more than armed propaganda," Brigadier Stegeman said.

According to the latest edition of *Janes Fighting Ships* the aircraft carrier has a complement of 1,200 men and carries SSM and SAM missiles. She is nuclear powered and has a range of 13,500 miles at 18 knots.

When the plane carrying journalists flew close to the ships — it did not fly over them, as that is internationally recognised as an act of aggression — not a single crew member could be spotted on deck. The carrier can accommodate 32 planes, but none was visible.

The cruiser is also armed with the most sophisticated missiles and usually 30 officers and 510 ratings represent a full complement. The amphibious boat also carries anti-aircraft missiles and rocket launchers and has a crew of 400. The frigate has a complement of 200 men.

Brigadier Stegeman said the ships were a valuable source of information to the South African Defence Force and they will be very closely monitored as they round the coast. It is expected that the fleet would return along the same route and the Air Force would then monitor its movements again. When the ships were first spotted on Wednesday they were sailing quite close to each other, but today they were scattered and it was impossible to take a photograph of them as a group.

Johannesburg Commentary on KGB, Cape Town Link

MB251947 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] One of the many tentacles of the world's biggest spy and security machine, the KGB, is being uncovered in an investigation spanning at least four countries — the United States, West Germany, Sweden, and South Africa. Apart from a local police inquiry, two American special agents are in South Africa to investigate the apparent rerouting at Simonstown of advanced computer systems to the Soviet Union via European ports.

The computers, which are used by the Pentagon, are capable of controlling nuclear missiles. But the scope of the industry is much broader. There are indications that Cape Town may have been used as a regular clearing house for information and equipment illegally acquired through the efforts of the KGB.

This tentacle, now that it has been discovered, will no doubt be lopped off. Yet the main body, the far-flung network of spying and subversion of the KGB, will proceed almost unaffected by the loss. The KGB, described by *TIME* magazine in a cover story as the embodiment of all that the West fears and loathes about the Soviet system, will continue operating in every corner of the globe, as pervasive in the Third World as in the First World, the silent vanguard of the Kremlin's imperialist offensive.

No country is free of its activities, and none can afford to ignore them. Its 700,000 members operate both at home and abroad. At least one-third of the resident diplomatic staff at Soviet embassies and consulates are estimated to work for the KGB. They are backed up by other agents scattered through the Soviet press corps and various agencies. The biggest concentration is in New York, where special United Nations conferences can swell the size of the Soviet delegation to more than 1,000.

The KGB was greatly changed during the 15 years in which it was run by Yuri Andropov. Under the man who now heads the Soviet Government and Communist Party, it was expanded to play a more active role in advancing Soviet ambitions, concentrating especially on three new fields. One was that of smuggling sophisticated weapon technology. A NATO committee recently disclosed that more than 20,000 Soviet and East Bloc

agents were engaged in this activity, and that as a result, the West's overall technological lead had been cut from 10 to 2 years.

Apart from the possiblity that Cape Town has been a center of one of channels of the network, South Africa has a direct interest in a further refinement of the Andropov era. In its extensive survey, *TIME* notes that KGB agents posted in the Third World alert Moscow to signs of political turmoil that could be fanned into so-called wars of national liberation. Once a group has been selected, the KGB or intermediaries provide it with arms and training. When a body like the PLO is firmly established, it, in turn, trains terrorists from many other countries, among them ANC members from South Africa.

But probably the most insiduous of the later measures is the program of active measures, as they are called — propaganda and disinformation designed to influence world events through front organizations, financing and manipulation of causes like the peace movement, and even spreading outright lies by word of mouth and forgeries. It was mainly to counter that onslaught that nine Western European governments expelled more than 100 Soviet diplomats in the first 4 months of this year.

The West is beginning to hit back. Just as important, the investigation now under way in Cape Town and elsewhere shows an awareness that the counteroffensive will have to be coordinated internationally if it is to succeed.

Foreign Minister Departs for W. Europe Tour

MB260736 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Nov 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha; the director general of the department, Mr Hans van Delsen; and other officials left from Jan Smuts Airport last night on an extensive visit to Europe. The minister and his party will visit several West European countries, including West Germany, Britain, Portugal, and Italy. Matters of mutual interest will be discussed in these countries. South-West Africa is on the minister's agenda, but it is expected that the situation in southern Africa in general will also come up. The visit had originally been scheduled for October but had to be postponed because of Mr Botha's commitments during the referendum campaign. The visit to Europe follows a recent visit to South Africa by the Bavarian premier, Mr Franz Josef Strauss, and Mr Botha is visiting Britain against the background of recent pronouncements on South Africa by the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, and her foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, which met with sharp reaction from the South African Government.

ANC Blames Pretoria for Killing in Swaziland

MB251235 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 25 Nov 83

[Text] The ANC has blamed South Africa for an attack in Swaziland. A statement from the ANC's Department of Information says an assassination squad of what it calls the Pretoria regime killed an ANC member and his friend. The ANC says (Sandile Nyanda) was a member of the ANC and Keith McFadden was a friend of (Nyanda's). The ANC says it vehemently condemns what they called this act of terrorism. The two men were killed by armed attackers on Tuesday.